

Monica Roque

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 6:30 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: John Bowes
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

DJUSD and the school board have not acted in the best interest of our children. Instead, you have let the DTA pressure you into not opening classrooms. How else can you explain why Davis schools were not opened on October 14th when the State of California authorized Yolo County to proceed with in-person classes?

By then hundreds of schools in neighboring counties had already opened safely. In fact, nine Yolo County private schools started opening on September 3rd. I contacted Yolo County this week and they confirmed that “there are still no cases that are found to have been contracted at school. Nor are there any outbreaks associated with any schools in Yolo County”.

California’s Health and Human Services Secretary has stated “we have not seen a connection between increased transmission and schools reopening for in-person learning”. And in October our own governor sent his four kids to their in-person private school classes in Sacramento.

I want to know which successfully opened schools in surrounding counties you have contacted to determine the plans and procedures that were put in place to provide a safe environment for students and teachers.

I want a public response to all questions the school board receives from parents.

I want the parent survey results to be presented to Davis parents as soon as they are available.

I want our schools to open now. You had all summer and fall to plan.

Erin Brennan

Monica Roque

From: Kathleen Thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 5:07 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: James Thompson; Kathleen Thompson
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

To Members of the School Board,

I write to respectfully plead you to make a plan for allowing our children to go back to school in person. Our children NEED to go back to school, in some shape or form! Their educational, emotional, physical, and mental states are being negatively impacted with the full distance learning model. Month after month we wait to hear any news from our leaders and there is silence. No concrete plan or ideas are being discussed (that we are privy to) on how to make this work for our children, nor is there a serious timeline of when they can go back, even in a hybrid model.

The private schools in Davis have managed to go back safely to in person classes, as have many other school districts across CA. I'm sure you've read the safety data and acknowledge the evidence put forth by California's Health and Human Services Secretary, Dr. Mark Ghaly.

"We have not seen a connection between increased transmission and school reopening or in-person learning," Ghaly said. "We're looking at the information to see if there is a connection, and so far we have not found one."

Please, do the research and help us get our students back to in-person learning as soon as possible. I do understand the teacher's concerns, but millions of essential workers from doctors and nurses to grocery store attendants have been back at work for months with many more risks than teachers.

Thank you for your serious consideration,
Kathleen and Jim Thompson

Monica Roque

From: Catherine H Allday-Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 4:42 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: calldaydavis@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

Hello School Board-

This email is regarding reopening of schools in Davis.

I am writing as a parent, who also happens to be a doctor (outpatient/ urgent care pediatrician). In both roles I get to see the effects of distance learning on my own children, but also hundreds of others.

This closure has gone on too long. We needed time back in March to understand this virus. While we cannot say now we understand it 100%, it is vastly more than then & we know how to mitigate its threats and also to whom it is the biggest threat. Masking works. Children are willing to mask.

School is more important than opening bars, restaurants, socializing in groups indoors, taking trips, going to movies yet people have been engaging in these activities and our counties have been allowing it while children stay home in 100% online "school".

I have 2 children in the district- one a senior at DSHS and one a 9th grader at Harper junior.

Up until last week, I also had a second grader at a DJUSD elementary, but we pulled him from the district to put him in a private school doing in-person classes.

This school has remained open without any COVID positive children. They are masked.

We did this for many reasons, not the least of which was he was totally unmotivated, bored and just sitting on a computer for his school day. In the last few days, he is clearly enjoying school again, doing projects, playing with new friends.

I don't even think we knew how much he needed this until it happened. I am not sure most parents or even kids know how much they need in person school and that regardless of how online "school" may be going it is not enough.

This story is likely replicated all over Davis. Just because you are not hearing that online "school" is horrible, does not mean it is ok to persist like this for the foreseeable future.

We need a plan. A plan to get them back, in some in-person form, before second semester starts.

I am here to advocate for a plan to more quickly and precisely bring children back to campus with their teachers. I am also here to offer help from a medical model on how we have been working and not having COVID outbreaks in our clinics. I am aware that schools and hospitals/clinics are not the same, but there are things to be learned from what we have been doing that can help reassure people. Many people have been working and when PPE is used correctly it is very effective at mitigating the spread of COVID and protecting any given individual in PPE. And as a pediatrician, let me reiterate, children will wear masks. Honestly, they are vastly better at it than their parents.

May I also add- children need a voice...not one family's children ("my kids are fine!"), but children in general.

This is not how they should be living- they should not spend their entire school day at home, they should not have limited access to friends, they should not have little to no regular exercise/outdoor time and they should not be totally unsupervised if they live in a home where both parents have to go to work daily. This is not asking for school to be daycare- an argument I have heard in Davis to my great dismay- this is the agreement between community and its members. Children go to a safe, rewarding, age appropriate space during the day to learn/grow when their parents go to

work. It is pure privilege to say that parents that work are just trying to “justify” going back to school to make things easier.

I have noticed, too often, children just being removed from the conversation. And not to put too fine a point on it, but the kids are not okay.

Many don’t even know how to express how they are not ok or how this is not working or why they are having more headaches/stomach aches/ poor sleep and a general feeling of sadness & anxiety.

We are see more mental health calls in the last few months than ever before- every pediatrician will tell you this.

School is their life, their job, and we have removed them from it & kept them from it here in Davis, when many other towns/cities/countries are prioritizing it.

They are prioritizing children.

I would love to hear the board tell Davis- children belong in school with their friends and teachers for their education, mental health & social enrichment , we will get them back there with a safety plan for everyone.

Thank you for your time,
Catherine Allday-Davis

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Monica Roque

From: Lisa Herrington [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 3:57 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: gregg@yackzangroup.com
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - BACK TO SCHOOL FOR OUR CHILDREN

Categories: Green category

Dear Davis School Board,

I am a product of the Davis Joint Unified School District. I went to North Davis Elementary School, Patwin Elementary School, Emerson Junior High School before graduating from Davis Senior High School. I played sports, was involved in numerous extra curricular activities, received an excellent education and developed life long friendships. Fast forward 20 years and I am now a Davis Mom of four children (ages 8 (3rd grade), 7 (first grade), 5 (UCNS) and 3 (UCNS). My husband and I chose to live in the town I grew up in because of our superior schools and community. In recent months we have discussed what it would look like to move into a district that supports working with the community to safely re-open schools as it does not appear DJUSD has a plan to reopen or it hasn't been communicated very well. It is important to us that our kids have the option to return to school where we feel strongly that their education is far superior socially, emotionally and academically versus distance learning.

I am part of a larger group of parents growing more and more frustrated with the DJUSD's lack of communication regarding a return to school timeline. Watching many school districts in California go back to an in-person and hybrid model of learning is both disheartening and disappointing as we have no idea when or how this will be possible for our kids. The educational foundation that I have always appreciated having is being compromised because our school district cannot formulate a plan to return to school while others have. Distance learning is not as effective as in-person learning (at least for our 1st and 3rd graders at Pioneer) and their social and emotional well-being has been negatively affected. Our 1st grader is an extrovert by heart and has a hard time controlling his emotions (outburst, tantrums) since distance learning began. I don't blame him...no young child should be expected to learn how to read while staring at a screen, without organized recesses to move his body and friends to help build social skills.

I understand that if kids are allowed to go back, there will be countless safety measures taken and kids won't be able to interact as they once were but at least they will have the opportunity to see each other and learn in-person from a teacher. At least they will have a shot at having the type of education I received growing up in Davis. As the clock ticks on in our district and more schools go back to in-person education and our schools stay closed, the disparity in education will be evident and I fear Davis will no longer be the same amazing town with incredible schools and a community that us Davisites want to raise our own children in. I expected so much more from our district in regards to being progressive and on the forefront of education during this pandemic. I ask on behalf of all parents and students who would like to go back to school to make this possible sooner than later.

Sincerely,

Lisa Yackzan Herrington
[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Gabriel Tames [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 3:51 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Please allow kids back into the classrooms

Categories: Green category

I am the father of a DJUSD 5th grader and a DJUSD 10th grader.

I am pleading with you to allow families the option to send kids back to school.

One of my children is bored, disengaged, and has lost much of their love of learning.

The social and psychological costs to 100% remote learning are a tragedy.

Many worthwhile things in life carry risk. Driving a car, skiing, playing basketball.

Why not give families a choice to weigh the risk of Covid exposure against rising the emotional and psychological costs of 100% remote learning?

Gabriel Tames

Monica Roque

From: Tahnee Sweeney [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 4:15 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

I am a parent of two North Davis Elementary School students. I am concerned about comments pressuring you to consider opening in person classes before it is safe to do so for students, staff, and our community. I understand these times of pandemic and distance learning are challenging, and are especially so for our students, including my own, who need more learning support. We all wish for our children that they did not have to experience this period when over 225,000 people in the U.S. have died from COVID-19. We are praying that the unfortunate trend the leading Science journal Nature has modeled to show we are currently on track to meet, in which half a million people die from COVID-19 by the end of this year, does not happen. Yet, there is no sign of the necessary widespread mitigations being put in place across to prevent this.

The death and infection rate among the black community from COVID-19 is three times that of whites. Infections and death rates from the virus are double in the Latino/Latina/Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, and other communities of color than those of whites. Rates are higher in poorer communities, and in those with more crowded housing and intergenerational family homes.

Keeping our children, neighbors who are educators - especially those who are custodial and foodservice professionals, safe, and thus our entire community safe - must be our first priority. We must protect those among us who are most vulnerable.

225,000 the number of people we have already lost is equivalent to the number of entire crews of over 37 Navy aircraft carriers. Losing half a million people is equivalent to losing every single person in the city of Sacramento. Just imagine that for a minute. The U.S. set a record last week when 61,000 children were diagnosed with COVID-19.

When it is safe for cohorts of ten to meet in person. The most restrictive safety guidelines from OSHA and CDC must be met, a system of reporting safety violations must be in place. Containing COVID-19 is a battle, and we need to keep all our children alive while it rages. One students' life is too high a price to pay.

The trauma a child will carry if they bring the virus home, and lose a parent as a result, can be prevented by this board's actions. - Tahnee Sweeney

Monica Roque

From: Julie Bernstein Klein [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 12:52 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

I am writing to have my voice added to the parents who do NOT want schools to reopen until the COVID-19 virus is under control. I would support SPED classrooms being opened to relieve the parents who have children with moderate to severe disabilities.

Otherwise, Yolo County COVID-19 infections are rising. Last week, more than 61,000 children got COVID-19 last week in the U.S., setting a record.

The rate of COVID-19 infection is steadily rising in Yolo County which will potentially return the county to the purple tier in coming days.

COVID-19 deaths are three times higher in the Black community, than among whites. Infection rates are double in the Latina/Latino/Latinx, Asian, Indigenous and communities of color than the rate among whites.

Many educators will be forced to leave the profession if they are given a directive to return to unsafe conditions, resulting in our students having less experienced substitute teachers.

My stepson is thriving at Holmes despite the challenges and we have no intention of putting him in a situation that exposes home and our family to this virus.

Thank you,

Julie Klein
[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Christie Carroll [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 10:28 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

As a Parent and a Physician, I am well aware of the risk of the Covid 19 virus. I would still like to urge the School Board to move toward reopening or at least allowing families to have a choice of in person school. I appreciate everything that the School Board, the District and the teachers have done to improve Distance learning between the Spring and what we are doing this fall. We still have to accept that distance learning is not ideal in anyway. Many children and families have had significant issues with attention and engagement, access, screen time, support during the day. Our education gaps are widening.

At this point in the pandemic we have a lot more information available to us than we did in March or even in July when we were last discussing this as a community. We now have many schools in the US and world, that have been opened and if appropriate guidelines are followed the schools are not being found to be the focus of spread. Of course nothing in a pandemic is risk free and people need to accept that. This impossibility of risk free school is why choice of continuing online is needed for families that choose this. We need to encourage quarantine if needed and have a plan for continuing education during that time with independent home study. We also know that this virus is not going away and we are in for a very long haul. Keeping children out of school for years is not something that is sustainable for them or for families. I continue to support the Yolo County Department of Health and State guidelines to be followed as a community outside of school and yes that means people can't gather in large groups, but school kids can be together in a classroom. It is an essential function of our community to educate our children.

I support active discussion with our teachers to find out what they need to help them feel safe in the classroom. If funding is needed for supplies and equipment then lets actively start forming lists and reach out to the Davis Schools Foundation and Community to solve these problems. Let's actively work on improving ventilation in classroom, work on outdoor time when possible.

I also support return to sports. Many students are missing these activities and it plays into their physical and emotional wellbeing without having these events. I'm hearing more about athletes on travelling teams going out of state to keep playing. This puts our community more at risk than if we could play in our local area without travel and hotels.

Let's come together to safely as possible in a pandemic return to in person instruction.

Monica Roque

From: Erin Dudley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 8:57 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

To the Davis School Board,

Please re-open Davis schools. We are not getting enough information regarding the plans to re-open, and I'm afraid DJUSD will just remain like this for the rest of the school year.

Distance learning is not ideal for our family. My kids need to be in school, in person, with their friends, and being held accountable to pay attention and engage with teachers. Other schools all around us are opening safely - I know it can be done. PLEASE understand that it is possible and that there are many parents and students who would be in support of re-opening! I don't understand how my son's High School Cross Country team can resume but his classes can't. They should both resume.

I don't want to leave the district, but we are considering a move to private school at this point.

Thank you,
Erin Dudley

Monica Roque

From: Angie Velasquez [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 8:20 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment for 11/5/20 meeting

Categories: Green category

Hi,
My name is Angie Velasquez. I am the parent of a DJUSD student at DaVinci High School and a teacher at Chavez. I am STRONGLY opposed to in person learning until we can safely all be in person.

Distance learning has taken a big toll on my son. Distance Learning has taken a toll on me as an educator as well. However, the safety of the students and staff FAR outweigh the benefits of returning to in person learning right now. I urge the board to keep our district on distance learning until it is safe for us to resume ALL in person operation. If you all can't meet in person & with the public present & the district administration has to work remotely/socially distanced, I see no sense in even entertaining the idea of our children & youth returning to in person learning.

For the safety of our kids, let's stay the course of distance learning until either a vaccine is widely available or the infection rate is extremely low (let alone not increasing in our county).

These children have their entire lives ahead of them & risking their physical health makes no sense. We can help them heal from trauma incurred from distance learning (over time). We can't replace damaged lungs that are supposed to last a lifetime. Many of our students have elderly relatives or maybe even high risk family members that in-person school would inevitably increase the risks of exposure for.

Lastly, a hybrid model or bouncing back & forth between in person and full distance learning is a teacher's absolute NIGHTMARE. We are already working harder than we ever have in our careers. Please do NOT add the logistical nightmare of forcing us to juggle in person & remote learning simultaneously on top of everything else we are shouldering right now.

I know you all have a very difficult job of deciding what is best & I don't envy you at all. I trust you to do what is SAFE for students & staff. Thank you,

Angie Velásquez

Monica Roque

From: Timothy O'Brien [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 8:12 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Davis Board meeting Public comment for entering into the record

Categories: Green category

Hello, I understand the fact that COVID-19 rates are on the rise in our county and you are beginning a discussion to return teachers and students to the classroom. I oppose this direction and it is not appropriate at this time. There will be legal and culpable ramifications by the DJUSD board members.

Thanks for entering my comments into the record.

Respectfully,

Tim O'Brien

Sent from my iPad

Monica Roque

From: Christine Baker
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 7:46 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Good evening,

I am a teacher in the Davis Joint Unified School District. I am writing this evening because I am concerned by reports that there is a call for the reopening of Davis schools. As someone would be personally affected by this decision, I wanted to state clearly that I think that any current push to reopen schools at this time is reckless and hasty, and would put students, teachers, and staff (as well as all of their families) at risk.

Covid-19 infection rates for Yolo County are rising. While the county is currently in the "Substantial" (Red) Tier, and has been since September 29, Yolo County announced today that if we continue to see more positive cases, we could move back to the "Widespread" (Purple) Tier as early as November 10. Why are we considering a return to school when our infection rates are rising? Shouldn't we be working to ensure the safety of our students, educators, and community?

I understand the desire to return to school. I miss my students more than anything. I miss being in their presence. I miss interacting with them in person. I am working incredibly hard to create a classroom community and to ensure learning is happening in my virtual classroom, and I worry constantly that what I'm doing is not enough. That said, when it comes to my teaching, my students' safety is my number one priority. It is, quite simply, not safe for us to return. Additionally, any idea that a return to school will create a sense of "normalcy" for our students is absurd. A return at this time or in the near future would not be normal. My students would not be able to interact with each other or me. The activities that I typically do to make learning engaging could not happen. Any cry for a return to normalcy is premature at this stage.

My health and the health of my family is also of the utmost importance to me. Please do not put me in a position where I am given a directive to return to unsafe conditions and must choose between my safety and the safety of my family. Please value the voice of your educators when making any decisions about our future return to the classroom.

Thank you for your time,

Christine Baker
English Teacher
Davis Senior High School

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Monica Roque

From: Skylar Schouten [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 6:16 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD School Board:

I am writing to voice my concerns for my education. I want to request returning to in person learning as soon as possible. Online School is tough, our semesters of each class are half as long as they would normally be causing each class to be condensed and the amount of information we are given is significantly less. How is our education supposed to compare to schools who have already weighed the risks and returned to class?

Another frustration for me is being a senior this year. I understand why we are online and the risks but it is extremely frustrating when it appears there is no effort to attempt to return. Other school districts in our areas are all returning and I see no reasons as to why we can not as well. With masks, everything would be safe and anyone who feels unsafe can take a hybrid approach and continue online.

It is clear that online learning is hard on everyone, and I truly feel like my education is compromised. I do not feel this is a fault to anyone, it is just the facts that we definitely can not learn at the same level as in person learning.

I hope my opinion is put into consideration and we can start taking real steps to return to in person learning. Thank you for your time.

Skylar Schouten
DHS Senior

Monica Roque

From: Kelcey and Matt Lucas [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 4:30 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Supervisors.

These are not normal times so we should not be forced to adhere to normal rules. There are many students who are unable to participate in Distance Learning via zoom and it is psychologically harmful to their mental health. We should be able to try to attend private in-person schools with waivers until the DJUSD is open for in-person class and be able to hold our spots at our current schools so when our children return, they are returning to a familiar school with familiar support. Can the assessment process be waived for choice and other schools so that students who attempt private school can return to their existing school?

Another way DJUSD could help special needs students would be to give vouchers or funding to special needs students so they can pay for private caregivers to lead their students through Distance Learning. Distance Learning is NOT equitable at all for special needs students who need one on one support to be able to participate. DJUSD could also help fund these students to attend a private school in person until DJUSD is back open.

Another idea: can DJUSD set up model outdoor classrooms at one of the elementary schools and attempt to do what the private schools are doing and see how it goes?

I also would like to recommend DJUSD move to a 4 day school week. It is physically and emotionally impossible for teachers who have children in school and for working parents to have to juggle teaching and working. If there was one day a week when we could catch up and not try to do it all at once that could help with the incredible stress. Teachers and parents are being asked to do the impossible and our children are suffering.

Thank you,
Kelcey Meadows-Lucas

Monica Roque

From: Heather Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 4:15 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Members of the board,

I beg of you, please consider re-opening the DJUSD schools in 2020. I have two young children, grades TK & 1st grade at DJUSD. My 1st grader is on a 504 plan and has been diagnosed with ADHD and anxiety. My children struggle with distance learning EVERY SINGLE DAY. I'm mostly concerned with my 1st grader. There are a lot of tears. She continues to fall behind her peers week by week because she is not able to receive the extra attention she deserves. Every week, now ~23 school weeks she is falling further & further behind. She is not able to receive learning in the way that is conducive to her learning style. She needs in-person instruction. She needs in-person services.

We are now to the point of submitting applications to private schools because distance learning is not providing what our children need. They are suffering. We are already paying a premium to live in Davis and now we are forced to send our kids to private school so they can access to the support they, especially our daughter, needs. And we are the fortunate ones. What about all of the children with similar challenges that don't have the means to provide private education for their children?

I could go on and on but I won't. I appreciate you taking the time to read this.

Please reopen the schools. Those that don't want/need in-person learning can continue doing distance learning. The 9 private schools that have reopened have confirmed that there are no cases that are found to have been contracted or associated with these schools.

Heather Jones

Monica Roque

From: Paola Franceschi [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 12:35 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Plan for School Re-Opening
Attachments: fullsizeoutput_2fd0.jpeg

Categories: Green category

Dear Board of Education,

I am the parent of 3 DJUSD students: 12th, 11th and 9th grade. I am deeply concerned with the district's lack of transparency and lack of urgency regarding a plan to re-open schools. Our county has met the the school re-opening health metrics of California's tiered re-opening system, yet I see no concrete plan for re-opening. We know that it can be done safely and that schools are not super-spreaders. All around us districts are re-opening, private schools are open. Even our Governor is sending his kids to school in person. Organized, concrete plans are being made in other districts and we only see vague words from our superintendent and board.

Distance learning is hurting our children, especially our most vulnerable. Our 11th grader is autistic and distance learning has been, quite frankly, a nightmare for him and for our family. We understood years ago that too much screen time was detrimental to his mental health and we strictly limited it. Now we have no choice but to allow him to look at a screen for several hours a day, and we are all feeling the negative effects of that. He is acting out daily. Our well-adjusted 9th grader is having panic attacks for the first in his life and asks to sleep with his dad or me. Our 12th grader is mourning all of the lost special moments and events of senior year. I don't see anything going on in our district that acknowledges that. And we are the lucky ones. We have the resources to help them, both academically and emotionally. Think of all the families in our district that do not.

I remember your awful, short-sided decision to make grades P/NP for all students in the spring, following the lead of Palo Alto Unified. You may want to take a look at what they are doing now....they have re-opened elementary schools in a very organized and transparent way and have a plan in place to open middle and high schools in January. Give our families and teachers the choice of in-person learning. Have a hybrid plan ready to implement this academic year. Palo Alto Unified has put students first. Will you do the same?

Sincerely,
Paola Franceschi

P.S. My 9th grader is a budding artist. I'm attaching his latest piece. It is very telling.

Monica Roque

From: Joshua Ciccotti [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 11:46 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Board Members,

Here are the factors that have generated my frustration with our CA district's refusal to even consider reopening, even in a hybrid fashion:

- city of 69,000 only 320 positive cases so far - less than 1% infection rate
- we have had less than 5 cases per day in our city for all of Sept & Oct
- county has been in Red tier and able to open schools since 10/13 but still no plans and no date for opening
- we live in a university town and everyone was certain the students returning would increase cases... university tested 12,000 students and only 6 positives
- my 3 year old returned to a fully in person preschool on 5/29 - zero cases zero issues
- my 7 year old did about 10 different summer camps. Although these were all outdoors - all had around 10-12 kids. Zero cases zero issues all summer.
- 9 private schools in our county received waivers and re-opened and we are not seeing outbreaks or issues.

I am not suggesting my second grader just return fully back to normal with zero changes. But I think with some measures - temperature testing, cohorting, PPE for teachers, masking requirements for students, hand washing, rearranging classrooms and adding plexi glass, dividing the playground - a slow and measured return could be achieved. I fully believe a second grader cannot "distance learn" and they need in-person.

I am familiar with the assistance CDPH has been giving to skilled nursing facilities and other congregate living environments in CA. They have given detailed guidance, gone out on tours to help the facility develop infection control protocols, and then done follow up inspections for adherence. I was thinking maybe CDPH could do the same for schools - help them develop a plan, the district then applies to CDE for funding to implement that plan, and then CDPH do follow up inspections to ensure the district's adherence or assess if positive cases happen and spread (which we are just not seeing spread between children - more isolated cases) why that occurred and if the protocols could be improved. Could CDPH plans and mandates to implement those plans get the districts out of this paralysis?

Also I fully support parents who have family medical issues or are too concerned about risk choosing to stay in distance learning, however they would have to understand it would need to no longer have the synchronous learning component since the teacher would be in-person for the kids who returned.

My district continues to kick the can down the road for months - not even considering any hybrid option until January- which I think is not based on the risk factors to our community, the protective measures we could put in place, nor is in the best interests of our children. My daughter, as are many children, I think are being truly hurt by all online learning.

Also - why aren't teachers essential workers? There are many state employees right now who HAVE to work in person to ensure continuity of government. The state has re-designed their work environments with Covid protocols - can schools do the same to keep our teachers safe?

Regards,

Josh

Monica Roque

From: Lauren Crownshaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 10:47 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Dear Members of the Board,

Please give our students the option to go back to school in a hybrid manner. As a parent of a first and second grade students I see the impact of distance learning on them every day. And it's heartbreaking.

No one doubts the importance of the early years when it comes to education. We instill a joy for learning, create healthy habits, learn how to work with others, and the list goes on. In the early years we lay the groundwork for successful students and citizens. Distance learning severely hampers this groundwork, and it does so at a cost to our students and society for years to come.

Don't do our youngest students a disservice by forcing distance learning when it has been shown in numerous schools, districts, and states that students, teachers, and staff can safely return to school in a hybrid manner. Hybrid schooling can be done safely! Don't deny the hybrid option to those who would choose it.

Please give care and consideration to your decisions. Think of our students, not just now, but for the long term.

Regards,
Lauren Crownshaw

Monica Roque

From: Mary Carolyn Watson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 10:35 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; John Bowes; diannahuculak@gmail.com
Subject: Public comment regarding reopening schools

Categories: Green category

Hello,

I would first like to say that I know you all are in a difficult situation regarding the decision and process of when and how to reopen schools. There will be angry and frustrated parents no matter what you decide. I'm actually in the middle and don't have strong feelings either way. Distance learning has been going well for both my daughters (1st and 3rd graders at Pioneer) this fall but I also would like them to have the opportunity to interact more with their peers (masked and distanced of course).

What does alarm me, though, is the possibility that all the classes will be re-organized if schools reopen. This is already an incredibly uncertain and difficult time. Why would you make things even more disruptive for our children? Both of my daughters' teachers (Keller and Caridi) have done a fantastic job of creating a real sense of community this year, despite school being online. Ms. Caridi, in particular, has a great reading program (Reading Counts) that is a year long program. I don't think all the other 3rd graders teachers do that so my daughter's progress and goals would be arbitrarily ended if she were to get a new teacher. Switching to new teachers and classes would be like re-starting the year all over again.

Additionally, as a military family we have family and friends all over the country. All of them are back in school and NONE of them had their classes reorganized. If you do decide to start the process of reopening schools can you PLEASE find a way to do it that won't be so disruptive to the children. They need as much stability as possible right now and completely switching their teachers and classroom communities in the middle of the year is not a good idea!

Thank you for considering my concerns,

Mary Carolyn Watson

Monica Roque

From: Mackenzie Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 9:56 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: [DJUSD] Public Comment: Kids need to go back to school

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD Board of Education Directors

I recently completed the family survey related to our kids returning to campus for instruction. And while I used the available text boxes to provide additional information that couldn't be captured with the survey questions, I still wanted to reach out to you directly to give you a sense of what my situation is like.

I have 3 elementary aged kids enrolled at one of the spanish immersion schools. I do not speak fluent Spanish, so I was especially keen to keep them going to school this year instead of opting for the DSIS homeschool program, or just going with an independent homeschool program. However, the remote learning model is NOT working for my kids.

All 3 of them adore their teachers - one of them even says their teacher this year (5th grade) is his favorite teacher he's ever had. However, their love for their teachers can't make up for the frustration of online learning. Here are some patterns of behavior...

My youngest has started lying to their teacher about why their camera isn't turned on, and no amount of positive or negative reinforcement (meaning incentive or consequence) I've suggested makes a difference in whether or not they use their camera. One of my older kids recognizes that this model isn't working for him and is started to be really down on himself and anxious. My other older child cries almost every day, yells at her siblings about their participation in their classes, gets very anxious about how to turn in assignments, yells at me and my husband when we try to help. All 3 of them complain about the amount of screen time.

I will be bringing up several of these issues to their teachers during our parent-teacher conference. But really, I've reached my limit with seeing my kids emotional health suffer as a result of this educational model, despite all the amazing effort that has gone into social-emotional learning and health (for which I am very grateful). I have reached out to DSIS about switching to the homeschool option, but I don't intend to make any decisions until after the survey results are publicized.

I'm waiting because I'm assuming that the Board will provide some sort of timeline for returning to in-person instruction, despite having only provided frustratingly vague guidance to date. I'm waiting because I believe in public education and because I want my kids to go back with the other kids in their grades. Kids in other states have returned, kids in other local communities have returned (Natomas, Rocklin, Roseville, Folsom), kids in private schools in this area have returned, and kids in Europe are still going to school despite many countries starting to lock down again.

I know the situation is complicated, but I hope that you'll do what's right for our kids and get them back to in-person instruction as soon as possible.

Kind regards,
-Mackenzie Johnson

Monica Roque

From: Monique Garcia Gunther [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 8:47 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: Joe DiNunzio
Subject: Public Comment - board meeting

Categories: Green category

Dear Board of Education and District staff,

I can't stop thinking of a recent board meeting, when a lovely, young, courageous student representative from Da Vinci, asked you - in a vulnerable way - what school might look like when she returns. "Will there be testing?" she asked. "What will our schedule look like?" It was clear that she, like so many students, are thinking constantly about these questions and look to their leadership, all of you, for some answers....some idea of what plans are in place.

Dr. Bowes, our superintendent, responded briefly that they were great questions and he would write them down. End of story. Perhaps Ms. Juanitas added to his short response in a vague manner. But no really answers or discussion and the meeting moved on quickly. In other words, her concern got passed by pretty quickly,

Not good enough, in my opinion. And, boy, did that response make me sad for the student who mustered up her courage to ask what is on everyone's mind.

Have you gotten back to this young woman/student leader? Why is the topic of all students returning to school the elephant in the room?

This is how I would like my school leadership to respond because it shows me they understand what students are feeling and are taking the bold actions required to make that happen, such is happening in many counties in our region:.

"We know this is extremely hard for you - and you, our students, are our first priority. We are listening to the science and state experts - that schools are low risk setting and we are keenly aware the consequences of you not being in school with your peers and of learning loss can have more negative consequences than opening up schools. Please know we are doing everything we can to get you back in school soon since you're been out since March. Here are some scenarios of what that might look like. Here are some ideas of when we think you will be back. "

Sincerely,
Monique Garcia Gunther

Monica Roque

From: Tracy De Wit [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 9:32 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: My comments

Categories: Green category

Please do whatever it takes, regardless of ethnic origin, economic status, gender, abilities, etc, to get these students back into a learning environment ASAP starting with the youngest who are growing most rapidly and the seniors who are leaving the this institution.

Tracy De Wit

--
null

Monica Roque

From: samantha saraniti [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 6:56 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Green category

Members of the Board,

I am writing to strongly encourage you to start planning on bringing students back into the classroom for in person learning. Distance learning has been extremely rough on my three DJUSD students. Aside from the obvious lack of learning that's taking place, they are all suffering socially and emotionally.

There is mounting evidence that schools aren't the super spreaders of COVID 19 that public health experts were worried about. Most of these youth have been wearing masks for 8 months now and now how to properly practice the necessary precautions. There is no clear reason to keep them completely remote. Private schools have been open for months and most school districts around us are making concrete plans to return.

As a newcomer watching this, it's looking like the board is pandering to the teachers' union. As a proud daughter of unionized teachers, it's disappointing to see the people I voted for failing our children.

Respectfully,
Samantha Walker Saraniti

Monica Roque

From: Robert Oldham [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 6:30 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Members of the board,

I am writing this email to advocate on behalf of my two children (6th grader and A K) and all of the other children left behind by distance education. Distance education disproportionately affects children that are already disadvantaged and those with special needs.

I have a sixth grade student named Chase who has ADHD and 504 plan that hasn't been accommodated during distance learning. Chases' teachers are amazing and do their best but distance learning is entirely insufficient; we end up spending as much time submitting assignments as completing them. He previously relied on peers for cues in order to keep on task during class but this is no longer possible and he often wanders away during meetings. He also inadvertently and routinely misses one of his four zoom meetings and doesn't turn assignments when he normally never misses school and completes all assignments. We are strongly considering retention as we don't think he will be ready to transition to the rigors of middle school.

As far as the data, it has become apparent that schools may not necessarily contribute significantly contribute to transmission (particularly elementary) What is certain is the continued damage distance learning and associated disengagement has done to our children not only academically but socially and emotionally. Many other states and countries have prioritized education And I would hope we would do the same in the Davis but this has not been the case despite the States clearance for schools to open.

The communication from the district has been vague and insufficient. Parents need a timetable for return as Covid isn't going anywhere anytime soon and we cant keep kids out of school indefinitely. We are strongly considering finding a private school for our children and will likely not return to the district in January if only distance learning is offered.

Thanks for the consideration,

Robert Oldham

Monica Roque

From: Rachel Kitazono [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 3:19 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Members of the Board,

I urge you to consider allowing school to reopen in some fashion, at the very least, allow our special education kids to return for in-person! There are nothing but vague timelines and it's November and we are no closer to getting access to in-person services for our most vulnerable kids. Families are being asked to do the impossible and all around us schools are reopening. What you see on a screen, if your kid makes it to the zoom class, is not what is happening behind the scenes - the meltdowns, the hardships, the work shuffling. It is not sustainable!

This lack of action will continue to create inequitable problems for those who cannot access or learn in this way. People will continue to leave the school district in further numbers, looking to private schools, or homeschool and the public school system will be less balanced and disadvantaged. The longer you wait, the more problems you create! Please take action!

Sincerely,
Rachel Kitazono

Sent from my iPad

Monica Roque

From: Sarah Caves [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 1:35 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Green category

Thank you. Thank your for putting the safety of our children, teachers and community first and not rushing to reopen schools. Our distance learning experience has been so much better than I expected, and I am grateful for the excellent opportunity to learn in a safe way.

Friends and teachers in Rocklin where they have gone back in a hybrid model report DAILY Covid exposures, laughable student and teacher safety precautions and children's learning regressing under the reduced teacher time and stress of the learning environment.

Please wait. We want to go back- when it is safe to do so. Not in an environment of fear and disease, not in a partial schedule that halves student learning time while doubling teacher workload, and not to whatever teacher gets randomly assigned to us in some massive shuffle.

Thank you

Sarah Caves
Parent of a first grader at MME

Monica Roque

From: Daniela Almeida [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 12:44 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Green category

I am a parent of a high school as well as a grade schooler. I feel that my highschooler almost more so than my grade school kids need to be in class in person. I feel that the return to work survey that was sent out by the school district was completely slanted and appeared to have an already pre-determined decision that we would not go back to in person learning. I have not seen anything other than some very high-level phase plans for Davis school district and towns to bring kids back onto campus. I think there needs to be more dedicated focus to how to bring the kids back on campus at least for a hybrid period of time by January.

Monica Roque

From: Michael Creedon [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 12:23 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Members of the Board,

I write to you in the earnest hope that you will consider accelerating your plans to reopen schools. I consider the poor quality of distance learning to be the most severe threat facing our children, and have been extremely disappointed to watch the schools continue to dither more than a month after the county met the school reopening health metrics of California's tiered reopening system.

The preponderance of evidence is that schools are not super-spreaders in regard to Covid. From New York to Florida, Georgia to Texas, schools have been successfully reopened without a corresponding increase in Covid incidence. Prominent publications, to include the New York Times, The Atlantic, The Economist and multiple others have now publicly stated that the perception of schools as a Covid threat appear to have been greatly exaggerated; that upon examination, the risk of schools spreading Covid appears to be no higher than other activities.

In fact, on October 6th, California's Health and Human Services Secretary, Dr. Mark Ghaly, told reporters:

"We have not seen a connection between increased transmission and school reopening or in-person learning," Ghaly said. "We're looking at the information to see if there is a connection, and so far we have not found one."

Across Europe, even as countries re-enter severe lockdowns, a common thread has emerged - they are keeping the schools open, despite the severe restrictions on other parts of their economy. Unlike in the United States, in Europe the virus has been politicized to only a small degree; they are largely following the science. At this point, that science clearly states that we put our children at higher risk by keeping them home (due to lost education, social and emotional development, hunger, abuse and a variety of other societal ills), and that teachers are not at any increased risk by being in classrooms.

I ask that you examine the data from other locales where schools were reopened, and continue to press for students to resume in-person learning, and as soon as possible. I also ask that the district explain how it has used the nearly \$5 million in additional funds for Covid response that was allocated to it by Federal and State officials. Finally, I ask that the district start setting actual timetables, with projected dates, for reopening. The vague "possibly until the beginning of 2021" answer found on the roadmap, and in the Superintendent's messaging, is completely unacceptable.

I have reached a point that I've already scheduled a tour at a local private school, and will soon withdraw my children from DJUSD unless in-person school resumes (Just as CA Governor Newsom has allowed his children to resume in-person learning at a private school). While this will do much to secure my children's future, at this point my concern is for the equity of those families who cannot afford a private option; it seems to me that the district talks about equality quite frequently, but given an actual opportunity to step up and take action, as in our current climate, they continue to dither, make excuses and offer only vague promises of "sometime in the

future”. These excuses have grown tired, and it’s time to actually follow the science - which resoundingly says we do more damage to all involved by keeping schools closed vs. reopening - rather than just paying it lip service.

Regards,

Mike Creedon

<https://www.npr.org/2020/10/21/925794511/were-the-risks-of-reopening-schools->

Monica Roque

From: Michael Creedon [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 12:22 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Members of the Board,

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future”. These excuses have grown tired, and it’s time to actually follow the science - which resoundingly says we do more damage to all involved by keeping schools closed vs. reopening - rather than just paying it lip service.

Regards,

Mike Creedon

<https://www.npr.org/2020/10/21/925794511/were-the-risks-of-reopening-schools-exaggerated>

Monica Roque

From: Jennifer O <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 10:58 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; Jamie Cassity
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Members of the board,

We are writing again to voice our support for a return to in-person schooling, preferably full time. Distance learning continues to be a poor substitute for school and we've seen the academic and social emotional effects firsthand in our children. Our children have always done well academically, but that is changing. We take no comfort when their teachers tell us not to worry because all of the children are behind and struggling.

Yolo County met the State and CDC guidelines to return to in person schooling. We are frustrated that despite meeting benchmarks, DJUSD has opted to drag out distance learning indefinitely. It's time to prioritize our children and education and get them back to school. Recent studies show that opening schools with the proper precautions has little effect on the COVID positivity rate in communities. We respectfully request that DJUSD accelerate their timeline and consider the well-being of all students.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jamie Cassity
Jennifer Overturf

Monica Roque

From: Heather Mariano [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 6:18 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

As we see on the news that our neighboring communities are safely re-opening schools, I am sad and remarkably disappointed in our school district. In a town where citizens support our schools with time and money, it's inconceivable that we haven't created a plan to get kids safely back to school. As a board member, if you don't have children in our schools, I urge you to visit the homes of students to gain perspective on what a day on distance learning looks like. The tears, the disconnect, the rapid pace of fitting a semesters worth of content into a quarter - it needs to be amended. Survey the families - not, an obscure, slanted survey - but, one that asks what kids need.

It might read something like this :

When declared safe by the state of CA, would you prefer to return to campus in a hybrid setting or would you prefer to remain using distance learning? With that data, plan options for ALL students. This is about the students, right?

Please join me in supporting our students.

Heather Mariano

Monica Roque

From: J F [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 5:33 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: gregfarwell@hotmail.com
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Hello,

This email is regarding reopening Davis schools.

Thank you for your efforts to keep our community as healthy as possible during this time. As background, my husband works with COVID-19 patients, I am a nurse, and my daughter is a student at Emerson Junior High School. We know so much more than 8 months ago when schools in Davis shut down. We have knowledge on how to mitigate COVID-19, our hospitals are not in threat of a surge as they were in March, and we have had time to plan and observe others successfully go back to school. I would like to see our district move forward to a hybrid form of learning.

Although my daughter may choose to do virtual learning, our community is suffering mentally and academically. We will have this virus with us in our community for an unknown period of time. We need to learn to live with masks, distancing, and outdoors when possible. It is the job of a student to be at school. It is essential. It is the job of health care workers to work on the health of their patients. It is essential. It is the job of our teachers, grocery store clerks, first responders, pilots, to continue living, learning, and working with masks, hand washing, etc. It is essential. I urge you to give an option for a hybrid/ in person teaching format ASAP. Our children and their future require us to step up at this time. I believe volunteers would be happy to help assist for COVID guideline management to facilitate this transition. Thank you for your consideration and your time,

Jennifer and Greg Farwell

Monica Roque

From: Stephenie Carlson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 11:12 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Good evening,

This email is regarding reopening Davis schools.

While I understand the need to protect public health, I believe that we have reached the point where the risk of COVID exposure is lower than the toll that distance learning is taking on our children and our families. This closure has gone on for too long, and there are other districts around the country and the world that are successfully teaching their students in person.

My children attend Montgomery, Harper, and Davis High. They are missing critical opportunities such as having face to face meetings with teachers, vital peer interactions and daily socialization. My oldest child is a senior in high school and is missing all the joy and significance that comes along with that, we are very much hoping for a return to campus before the end of this milestone year. My other children are in 6th and 9th grade and they are deeply missing their friends, clubs, and sports, as well as my son's loss of outdoor camp at Walker Creek.

I know that an incredible amount of time, effort and thought is being put into the plan for our children's return, but I fear that we are moving too slowly. I would like to encourage the district to move more quickly and with more transparency. I would like to hear a more concrete timeline from our schools, even if the timeline needs to include several different scenarios. I think it is a realistic goal to plan for a return at the start of the second semester, and I think there is value in having a specific goal we all know and are working towards, and I believe that will be valuable to the teachers and administration as well.

I understand that no one knows how COVID infections will proceed, but we do have a lot of data about how other schools are doing this, in addition to all of the data about how incredibly effective PPE can be. Dentists, hairdressers, grocery workers and countless other professions are safely working with others daily. Our children's education, socialization and mental health are just as vital to our community, and I fully believe it is possible to get them back to school safely.

Thank you for your consideration,
Stephenie Carlson

Monica Roque

From: Angela Schouten [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 1:32 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

DJUSD School Board:

You are elected leaders. That translates into taking the lead when required and representing **all** of those that elected you. Your inaction since the beginning of this pandemic has been disheartening and feels like a betrayal. Most people sacrifice greatly to be able send their children to this school district, but the commitment from the school board to supporting these families has been anemic at best.

You need to come up with a plan to get our children back to school and that must be shared with families **right now**. In truth, a plan should have been already established. I understand that at the beginning of this outbreak that we were all at a loss of what to do. But you had all summer and part of this autumn to put something into action. That is unreasonable and unfair. Please take action for the sake of our students immediately. Don't wait until after the holidays to act; we are concerned that further delay will then make it very easy for you to decide that it is easier to finish out the rest of the year with Distance Learning. I sincerely hope that is not the case. It also feels like you are being pressured and are caving to those that shout the loudest. Realize there are many families that are not ok with Distance Learning and are open to allowing everyone a choice that works best for their families.

There is no reason why we shouldn't already be in a hybrid system for those that choose to participate. As you are aware, New York, arguably one of the hardest hit cities in the world, **opened its school this week**. In California, we have the additional advantage of outdoor options and in Davis, we do not even have a bus system to navigate. We have so many outdoor and indoor spaces to create a hybrid option for our students. **Please answer me: If they can do it, why can't we?**

Young people are suffering from being socially isolated and their educational growth is being stunted. I personally know of families that have been broken apart due to violence and abuse, teen suicides and a dramatic increase in those with declining mental health or new diagnoses, such as depression, since the schools have shut their doors. These are real risks that you are choosing to expose children to. You have to balance the risk of transmission and disease with these other factors. According to the CDC:

While children can get Covid-19, the illness is generally less severe than in adults. The CDC says that children under the age of 18 account for less than [7 percent](#) of US Covid-19 cases and less than [0.1 percent](#) of the deaths.

Most children with Covid-19 have mild symptoms, the [most common](#) being fever and cough, according to a comprehensive National Academies of Medicine [report](#) from mid-July on setting priorities for reopening schools.

The National Academy of Sciences has provided guidelines for reopening schools. They have also clearly stated that reopening schools should be a priority. If you are reviewing these guidelines and making decisions based upon weighing the public health risks of opening against the educational and other risks of keeping buildings closed, this should be shared with the families that are affected. We want to hear from you.

We elected you to put the students first, but there is little evidence of that right now. In person education is essential even if it is only a few hours a week. Educators and District personnel can afford to lose a year or two, but these children can not. Some of the damage is already severe and may affect some for the rest of their lives. Please consider being more aggressive and creative and get our children back in to school at some level immediately. Don't delay and make them pay for your indecision.

Thank you for your time. The three references mentioned in my email have been provided below.

Angela Schouten

[New York Becomes First Big City in U.S. to Reopen All Its Schools](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children/symptoms.html)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children/symptoms.html>



New York Becomes First Big City in U.S. to Reopen All Its Schools

It's a significant moment for the recovery in a city hit hard by the pandemic in the spring. The system, the nat...

Reopening K-12 Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Prioritizing Health...

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Download a PDF of "Reopening K-12 Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic" by the National Academies of Sciences, E...



What scientists are learning about kids and Covid-19 infection

Lois Parshley

Several new studies are deepening our understanding of infection and transmission in kids, but there's still a l...

Monica Roque

From: erast [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:05 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment on return to in person instruction

Categories: Green category

Hello,
This email is regarding reopening Davis public schools.
While I understand the need to protect public health, I must use my voice to protect my children's emotional and educational needs. The school closure has gone on far too long.
My children attend Da Vinci Jr. High and (before switching to a local private school) one of my children attended Patwin elementary school (which we left with a very heavy heart). My children are missing critical opportunities such as having a face to face meeting with a teacher, exchanges with peers and socio emotional growth. Opportunities as such need to be offered in a school setting and cannot be substituted virtually.
My children's mental health is suffering as they have lost crucial interactions and stimulation that DL cannot provide.
Half a year or a year of our lives seems nothing for us adults, but they mean a world to children and teens who are just about to discover the world and themselves.
I am honestly concerned not just for my own children, but for all children in our community.
I can see on my youngest, who is in a private in-person school now, the difference in her behavior (= emotional/mental health) and academic growth those four weeks of in person instruction has made. It is wonderful to see her blossom and disheartening to know that my sons are not allowed an equal opportunity.

Please help returning our children to their classrooms in a safe way as fast as possible. Let us under no circumstances wait until the new year, as we then might have missed the opportunity to bring our children back into a healthy, safe learning environment.

Sincerely,
Elena Rast

Monica Roque

From: Monica Dwyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:01 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

Good morning

I'm reaching out because it appears Davis joint unified school district is lagging in the progression of opening our schools & the toll it is taking on the community & especially the children is mounting & deeply concerning.

Other school districts have begun the process of returning to campus & yet we have not seen any clear plan or progress to do the same for the majority of our classrooms. This is not a request to swing the doors wide open, but to proceed forward, with care & safety for all...

thank you for your time & commitment to our students



Monica Roque

From: Tammy Tujo [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 7:33 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Good evening,

This email is regarding reopening Davis schools.

While I understand the need to protect public health, I must use my voice for greater reason, and my child's education. This closure has gone on far too long.

My child attends Davis Senior High school. He is missing critical opportunities such as having a face to face meeting with a teacher or socializing and seeing friends, also quit band because wasn't the same in Zoom. Opportunities such as these should be done independently at school, not in the home on a Zoom call. Jacob's mental health is suffering as he has lost important subjects he cared about, like I said he quit band which he loves, but he loves the social aspect and playing together. I still don't understand why band cannot be done outside like sports are doing right now!! Jacob has seen his primary doctor twice due to his mental health issues from social isolation.

Honestly, I am concerned for all kids for these exact reasons.

If the students at the high school level are only taking three classes a quarter it seems like a hybrid model can be implemented for those families that wish for students to return to campus. Some parents who are concerned can still choose to have their students work online only. I know other states where students are back full time. My son knows how to wear a mask, wash his hands and take the precautions necessary to go to school in person. With the students being stuck at home I'm sure most can follow the guidelines as they would be so interested in seeing their friends and getting out of the house to learn.

Thank you

Tammy Tujo

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Monica Roque

From: Dana [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 9:12 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment-please read aloud

Categories: Green category

Good evening board:

Thank you for your leadership during these challenging times. We can all see and feel how challenging the situation is. We are all connected together to the desire to get our kids back to school. I have several comments:

1. I heard that emails submitted to the board for public comment are not read aloud, but only attached to the minutes. I feel strongly that input from all stakeholders should be heard out loud. Merely attaching an email to a digital copy of meeting minutes keeps varied voices silent and hidden. Please do not shut us out from being heard. I will listen to the next meeting to see for myself.

2. Being in school is as essential as getting groceries. Grocery stores figured out how to reduce risk for workers and shoppers. Schools can do the same. Outdoor classrooms, hybrid models. The data has proven that wearing face coverings prevents spread. You are letting sports teams meet (inside and outside) but not classes. Can't classes be led the same way?

3. Perfect conditions will not exist. We can make progress as a district in getting our kids back in classrooms and make adjustments as needed. The 5 stage process is too vague. We need dates and specifics. Not providing sends a message that details either don't exist (refusal to plan) or exist but can't be communicated (failure to act responsibly and transparently).

Please communicate the plan on getting all students back into classrooms. You owe the school community this information.

Dana Welch
Parent of DHS Senior

Sent from my iPhone

Monica Roque

From: alison kennedy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 6:47 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Green category

Good evening,

This email is regarding reopening Davis schools.

While I understand the need to protect public health, I must use my voice for greater reason, and my child's education. This closure has gone on far too long.

My son is a senior at Davis High school. He is missing critical opportunities such as having a face to face meeting with a teacher or using the career center in person. Opportunities such as these should be done privately and independently at school, not in the home on a Zoom call.

His mental health is suffering as he has lost important hobbies especially attending DHS Football and Basketball games.

Honestly, I am concerned for all kids for these exact reasons.

Please let's put the pressure on all the "powers that be" to safely return to school.

thanks

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

-Abraham Lincoln

Monica Roque

From: Monique Garcia Gunther [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 2:05 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: Joe DiNunzio
Subject: Public comment for Nov board meeting

Categories: Green category

This public comment is being sent to be read at the next Nov board meeting.

Dear DJUSD board and staff ,

This is yesterday's conversation with grandpa when he asked the kids (8th grade and 12th grade) how distance learning is going at DJUSD.

" I guess it's better than spring. But it's boring and I suppose we learn a little. We are learning much less than if we are in person."

" I get so tired in front of the screen all morning. I'm so bored just watching my teacher talk."

"People turn off their video and are not engaged."

" I know the teachers care and are doing their best , but it just makes me dislike school and learning. Learning is no longer engaging. "

" I miss seeing my friends. "

It is time to move on from emergency distance learning for ALL students. ALL students are receiving a suboptimal experience (suboptimal is how the state superintendent described distance learning).

If preschools, private schools, county gyms, restaurants, grocery stores and health care facilities are open and figuring out safety protocols, why , as a community, are we not prioritizing our children and finding a way to open our schools?? We live in a small and manageable school district. DJUSD board- you are elected to look out for our children's interests first. If teachers are unwilling to return, enlist your substitute teachers or find other staff to help get kids back in school and use creativity to help ensure safety. We are bringing students to picture day- use those large gyms for small cohort afternoon science labs, world language conversation and group work! What are the hybrid plan details and timeline per grade level should cases remain stable in red? I have asked this question to you numerous times over the last several months and have received no response. Where is the parent 'willingness to return' survey?

Monique Garcia Gunther
[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Kimberly McCusker [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 1:14 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Green category

To DJUSD School Board:

Last week I withdrew my kindergartener from DJUSD. He was attending distance learning at Patwin and his teacher, school administrators, and therapists were excellent and did what they could for him given the limitations imposed by the district. We hired a tutor, at significant expense to us, to work one-on-one with him and act as his paraprofessional. We kept trying new ways to get him engaged with virtual learning and were willing to keep trying since our county had moved into the next tier and therefore thought we should have been starting back to in person services and eventually classes “soon.”

However, all we have been hearing are vague non-answers, no actual timeline, and rumors of the teachers union being resistant to sending teachers back to in-person learning.

Simply put, we need specific answers to our specific concerns. This is simply not sustainable for many families, including ours with a child with special needs.

Sincerely,
Kimberly McCusker

Monica Roque

From: Andrew McDaniel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 8:29 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment: DJUSD reopening plan

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD board,

My wife and her two siblings are products of the Davis public schools. We are grateful that our careers have afforded us the opportunity to raise our own children here and matriculate them into North Davis Elementary each of the past two years.

We have been grateful for the efforts of our children's kindergarten and 1st grade teachers this year. They have been organized and responsive and their attempts to foster community have been admirable.

With that framework, I have been disappointed with the district's plodding response to the state's move to the red tier. At a time when many surrounding counties have begun to return their students to school, and when schools in our own county and city have returned via the waiver program with no significant clusters or outbreaks, DJUSD appears to be months behind the curve. During Dr Limbos' presentation at the October 15th board meeting, she cited evidence (including from the Yolo county schools that have been granted waivers) that when schools follow the public health guidelines, they are quite safe. Large child-related outbreaks have happened when the adults in charge have eschewed public health guidance. When public health guidance is followed, students and educators are kept quite safe. Our own children have been guinea pigs in this experiment. In a home with two essential worker parents, they spend significant amounts of time in a local after school program. This site has had only one coronavirus case, in a teacher, many months ago. There was no spread at the program. During the summer surge, there were no cases and the program has remained open throughout.

The questions asked of Dr Limbos showed that our own trustees are disappointingly unaware of the state and county guidelines for return to in person learning, which she had to point out were developed in conjunction with DJUSD. Our own trustees were under the assumption that schools that were open had some excess level of resources or testing capacity, which just is not the case. They are following the same guidelines laid out by the state and doing it admirably.

Yolo county has met the state's criteria for beginning to return all of our students to campus. We should be doing this now, during the lull in coronavirus cases. This will allow teachers to develop comfort with safely wearing and handling PPE. It will allow students to get used to wearing PPE and the novelty of socially distancing at school. Children who have been in daycare since the beginning of the pandemic have shown that wearing a mask is really not a big deal for young school-aged children. In fact, they're better at it than many adults you pass at the supermarket. Learning these skills now and getting teachers, students, and families used to the new protocols now will help mitigate the concerns of increasing cases in the winter months.

In addition, the plight of the working parent has been consistently overlooked. The district recommended CDC (now catalyst kids) and Davis Kids club. Neither are equipped to truly aid students with distance learning. Our experience was that the support, while valiant, was inadequate and we have had to reduce and alter our work hours so that we could support our students with their actual work, then we use these options for afternoon

childcare so that we can go to work and support our communities. In addition, the district-provided "meals" are actually a disappointing blend of pre-packaged, sugar enriched junk food, not appropriate for the mental or physical well-being of our students.

During this difficult time, those of us (schools included) who serve essential functions in our community must be leaders in restarting essential services. I encourage DJUSD to join so many others who are aggressively mitigating risk while serving our communities.

Respectfully,
Andrew McDaniel