

Monica Roque

From: Kyle Cobb [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 7:56 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT: MME parent feedback

Categories: Green category

DJUSD:

I am the proud/happy father of two MME kids (2nd, kinder) and I wanted to give you some feedback on the state of affairs. I have also conveyed some of these points in the DJUSD survey, and would be happy to elaborate on anything as needed [REDACTED]

First of all, we're so thrilled with the school and the staff. Our kids love their teachers and so do we - they are fantastic and we have come to expect nothing less from MME after having spent our son's kinder and 1st grade there. The effort, demeanor and commitment of the teachers and staff is remarkable.

Second, I want to say that if there is anything we can do to contribute to the MME community, please let us know.

Finally, we are keen to find a way to return to MME in person in some form or another just as soon as we can. We are a safe, COVID-compliant household that wears masks and washes hands. We have settled into the distance learning routine, but our kids (and as a consequence, we) are really struggling socially/emotionally. We have found ways to cope by enrolling the kids in various safe activities around town (i.e. swimming, Explorit camps). This limited social interaction has really helped the kids. More than that, though, it has demonstrated to us that there are some really good examples of how to return to some interaction in a safe and quasi-normal way. It's frustrating that we haven't seen any attempts similar to this made by DJUSD. It's likely that there has been activity behind the scenes that we don't see, but to be honest it feels like the district has committed to distance learning despite the societal circumstances (as indicated by the most recent e-mail).

Is there anything we can do (even if creative!) to contribute to some level of in-person engagement? Our kids are struggling, and our family is desperate for change. It feels like our voices are not being heard in a generic survey. So, I felt compelled to write in efforts to make sure that we are. It feels like we're waiting for the world to change rather than changing to the new world - I really don't want to feel that way in 6 more months if there isn't any positive news on treatments, vaccines, etc. If we don't see some effort to return to in-person school, I'm afraid we're going to have to explore other options for next fall, and that really pains me because of how much we love MME.

In conclusion, thanks again to you and your team for all your efforts in this extraordinary time. If there is anything we, as parents, can do to match your efforts - we welcome the challenge!

Sincerely,
Kyle Cobb

[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Michael Creedon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 10:48 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: John Bowes
Subject: Public Comment for Board Meeting

Categories: Green category

DJUSD Board,

I'd like to add my voice to the chorus that is unsatisfied with the plans the district has made regarding the reopening of schools. For the past month, I've watched as the county sat in the "Red" tier, allowing schools to open, while DJUSD accomplished very little – leading to questions of its readiness and planning to reopen schools at all.

As Covid cases in Yolo continue to climb, and we appear to be on the precipice of returning to the "Purple" tier, I am dismayed. Had the district been better prepared, we could have opened the schools – and would be under no requirement to close them, regardless of the county's tier, as it appears the state of CA has come to recognize that schools are not the "superspreaders" they were once feared to be. At this point, it appears that the state of CA is acknowledging that schools are a priority, a low risk, and carry an outsized, detrimental effect when closed. In fact, the preponderance of evidence points to such at this point; The NY Times has published a series of articles in the last two days that strongly argue for keeping schools open, citing the growing consensus of experts, the experience and policy of European nations as they struggle with rising Covid cases and the body of evidence that points to schools often being safer than the community at large in regards to transmission.

For DJUSD to be able to open, but to squander the opportunity, is deeply disappointing and raises serious questions about the board's efficacy.

I urge the board to re-examine their ideas of reopening, and ensure they have a rapidly executable plan for getting kids back in classrooms as soon as the county re-enters the appropriate tier.

A single missed opportunity to reopen is a deep disappointment. A second missed opportunity is an inexcusable failure.

Regards,

Mike Creedon

Monica Roque

From: Monique Garcia Gunther [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 3:13 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; Joe DiNunzio
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

41 out of 43 public comments were sent to the board last meeting - 41 letters by parents sharing their struggles of distance learning and offering science- based research demonstrating schools as low- risk settings and the negative consequences and hardships of prolonged distance learning for children and their families. They gave their opinions regarding the need for DJUSD to plan proactively rather than play a waiting game , get agreements in place with labor partners sooner rather than later- so students can get back to school when we are back in the red tier as allowed by the state. (Phase 2 timeline has seemed to go much slower than Ms Juanitas indicated in September meetings when she said 'we're ready!')

DJUSD chose to read not one of these family comments at the last board meeting. . If time were an issue, I'd suggest less time spent on your Golden Quill presentation and more time on hearing constituent concerns. The optics appear as if you are silencing widespread family support for a hybrid return to school and the science-based research showing schools are not super spreaders. At this point there should be no staff or board member asking what St James is doing as was asked by a board member at a recent meeting. I hope you are in close contact with them and many other schools that offer examples of successful reopenings.

I am glad to hear that the public comments policy at board meetings will change after a complaint was filed.
Monique Garcia Gunther

DJUSD PARENT COALITION

DJUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Davis, CA

CONTACT
djusdpcmedia@gmail.com

Nov. 17, 2020

Dear DJUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION,

The DJUSD Parent Coalition was formed to address issues we noted with DJUSD's response to reopening schools when conditions allowed.

We recognize that Yolo is now in the purple tier, and understand the implications. We are advocating for DJUSD to safely reopen when local health conditions stabilize. We are seeking a voice in this process, to ensure that reopening plans are solidly based in both science and expert opinion, while being executable as soon as conditions allow. Given our experience last month, we do not feel the current plan meets these standards. We feel that the district must develop and adopt such a plan no later than January 7th.

Enclosed, please find our letter to the board. Please feel free to contact us at the email provided. We look forward to a meaningful conversation.

For more information, please visit our website -
[DJUSD Parent Coalition](#)

Sincerely,
DJUSD Parent Coalition

November 17, 2020

Joe DiNunzio, President, Board of Trustees

Tom Adams, Vice-President, Board of Trustees

Alan Fernandes, Member, Board of Trustees

Bob Poppenga, Member, Board of Trustees

Vigdis Asmundson, Member-elect, Board of Trustees

Lea Darrah, Member-elect, Board of Trustees

Betsy Hyder, Member-elect, Board of Trustees

John Bowes, Superintendent

Diana Stommel, President, Davis Teachers Association

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

RE: Davis Joint Unified School District Reopening

Dear President DiNunzio, Superintendent Bowes, President Stommel, members of the Board of Trustees:

We are writing as parents of students in the Davis Joint Unified School District ("District") to urge the reopening of schools for in-person instruction by late winter as authorized by the state on October 14, 2020, with a reopening plan approved at the latest by the January 7, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting. Although the results of the District survey on returning to school have not yet been released, we believe the design of the survey is fundamentally flawed and will not accurately represent the views of parents. We support a reopening that opens all elementary, middle, and high schools concurrently, provides parents a choice between continuing with distance learning or switching to in-person instruction, and provides students with special needs access to in-person instruction as soon as possible.

Medical professionals advising the parent coalition recommended using the [November 2020 Evidence and Guidance for In-Person Schooling During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) ("Children's Hospital Study"), a publication of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia based on a review of published literature and reopening policies, to inform reopening recommendations. Based on our review of this publication, the Yolo County Office of Education's [Yolo County Schools Roadmap to Recovery Task Force: Planning Recommendations for the 2020-21 School Year](#) ("Roadmap to Recovery") analysis of available COVID-19 data, review of other resources, and

consultation with both medical professionals and education experts, we are submitting this letter to support the safe reopening of schools for in-person instruction. We recommend the following:

1. **Adopt a plan for the safe reopening no later than the January 7, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting, consistent with Yolo County's health guidelines, with a reopening date in late winter.** Parents who are taking time off work or organizing child care need to know in advance when children will return to school, as well as need an opportunity to review and comment on a draft plan. We recommend the District propose this plan at either a November or December Board of Trustees meeting, including a timeline for reopening, mitigation strategies, a public outreach strategy, and a contingency plan in case of an outbreak. (This coalition can assist with public outreach.) We recommend adoption of the plan at the January 7, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting. The plan's mitigation strategies should be consistent with state and Yolo County health guidelines and the Roadmap to Recovery, should include options for parents who want their children to continue distance learning, and should have a specific strategy for resuming in-person education for children with special needs as soon as possible.
2. **Improve communication and transparency.** We recommend the following to improve communication and transparency: 1) coordinate with this parent coalition to secure feedback on the reopening plan; 2) read all letters signed by more than five people aloud at Board of Trustees meetings (this did not occur at the November 5th Board of Trustees meeting, arguably in violation of the Brown Act); 3) respond in writing to all questions posed by members of the public at Board of Trustees meetings and in letters such as this one; 4) release the survey results to the public as soon as they are available, both on the web site and via the District email distribution list, and seek parent feedback.
3. **Provide an accounting of funding available to the District for reopening, including funding received by the District through the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund.** We recommend providing the community with information about the District's available funding for COVID-19-related expenditures to assist with a safe reopening and an accounting of expenses already incurred, including CARES Act funds, and to seek parent feedback on these expenditures. This parent coalition may wish to assist with fundraising for a safe reopening, if there is a demonstrated need.
4. **Request parents and students sign a document stating they will adhere to the same safety measures outside of school as are required at school.** The health and wellbeing of the entire community is essential to ensure the safe reopening of schools. Social distancing and masks at school will only decrease risk if students/families are also implementing these safety measures outside of schools. As part of the ongoing effort to minimize risk in our community, we suggest each parent and student sign a document stating they will adhere to safety measures before returning to in-person instruction.

These recommendations are based on the following research conducted by this parent coalition:

1. **Schools have successfully and safely reopened in the State of California (including Yolo County) as well as other states and countries.** Hundreds of schools in neighboring counties have reopened safely, as have nine Yolo County private schools. According to the Children's Hospital Study, "schools have been safely reopening by adhering to important mitigation strategies, including mask wearing, social distancing, hand hygiene, and contact tracing." On October 6, 2020, EdSource quoted the California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly, "We have not seen a connection between increased transmission and schools reopening for in-person learning." He added that sometimes it takes time to see the trends, "but so far it's encouraging to see the tremendous effort and planning communities and their schools and their staff have done to ensure it is low risk for students and staff alike." Even Governor Newsom sent his four children back to private school in Sacramento in November.
2. **The rate of COVID-19 transmission in schools is relatively low.** The Children's Hospital Study states, "...children and adolescents are at lower risk of serious infection and complications with SARS-CoV-2 than adults." It also states, "although children of all ages can spread COVID-19, young children are relatively inefficient drivers of transmission, while older teens appear to have transmission risks similar to those of adults." While teens may have higher transmission rates, we believe they are also more capable of complying with mitigation strategies and therefore should be included in the reopening. According to an October 29, 2020 article in the New York Times entitled [*Why is Europe Keeping Its Schools Open, Despite New Lockdowns?*](#), The European Center for Disease Prevention and Control found [*in a study*](#) that children accounted for less than 5 percent of all cases of coronavirus reported in the 27 countries of the European Union and Britain, The agency found that school closures would be "unlikely to provide significant additional protection of children's health."
3. **The COVID-19 test positivity rate in Davis is lower than established standards for reopening.** The Children's Hospital Study encourages continued reopening of schools "in the absence of linked transmission occurring in the schools within the area and in the absence of rapidly accelerating community transmission (i.e. quickly approaching or reaching 9% or greater test positivity.)" As of November 9, 2020, Yolo County's test positivity rate is 5.69%. While it is difficult to ascertain the exact test positivity rate for Davis since Yolo County only publishes aggregate numbers, the Yolo County COVID-19 dashboard indicates Davis has only 12% of the total COVID-19 cases although it has 25% of the population. The rate among children 0-17 is similarly lower than the County total.
4. **Mitigation strategies work.** According to the Children's Hospital Study, "strong school safety plans can, and have, mitigated risk for transmission, even within communities with moderate incidence." The Yolo County Office of Education Roadmap to Recovery is consistent with the Children's Hospital Study recommendations. Residents of the City of

Davis have already maintained one of the lowest rates of COVID-19 in Yolo County due to implementation of mitigation strategies, which we believe will continue if schools reopen.

We also have the following questions, to which we hope you can provide answers in writing:

1. What can we as parents in this community do to support the District in their reopening needs?
2. What are the criteria the District is using to determine whether reopening is safe?
3. What scientific studies or other resources are the District using to develop these criteria?
4. What are the main concerns of the Davis Teachers Association and how has the District proposed to address these concerns?

We urge you to consider these recommendations because of the importance of ensuring our children return to school to continue their education and to help parents struggling to support their children's distance learning while working. The COVID-19 pandemic has already created unprecedented stress and economic hardship in the lives of Davis families. The reopening of schools would be a big step forward in addressing many of these issues for both parents and children.

We have appointed a Leadership Committee of Yolanta Petrofsky MD, MPH (parent and medical director for a local hospital system, Master in Public Health with an epidemiology focus), Catherine Allday-Davis MD (parent and pediatrician), Heather Marshall (parent and Master of Education), and Kari Oldham BSN, PHN (parent and emergency room nurse) to communicate directly with the District and Board of Trustees to further the recommendations in this letter and provide assistance to the District with reopening. The Leadership Committee would like to schedule a Zoom meeting to discuss our recommendations at your earliest convenience.

We greatly appreciate the hard work of District staff and the Board of Trustees to move to a distance learning model in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to care for our students, as well as evaluate the path to a safe reopening. We further are indebted to our teachers for their work during such unprecedented difficulty.

We look forward to working with you to develop a reopening strategy that works for all.

Sincerely,

DJUSD Parent Coalition

NOTE: 300 signatures removed to allow for posting to Public Comment.
Original signatures were included on emails to DJUSD Board, and can be obtained by contacting the DJUSD Parent Coalition.

Monica Roque

From: Joshua Ciccotti [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 7:13 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Good Evening,

I understand that Yolo County has recently returned to the purple tier, and as a result, the schools are not permitted to re-open for in-person learning unless the District seeks a waiver. I fully support following the public health guidance when it comes to re-opening the school.

However, the District could have opened schools as of October 13, when Yolo County was in the red tier, and chose not to. I would like to understand if the District is planning to re-open schools as quickly as possible when Yolo County returns to the red tier.

I would like the District to answer some basic questions:

1. If Yolo County returns to the red tier, will the District plan on moving to phase 2 at that time? If not immediately re-open upon returning to the red tier, then when?
2. If the District continues its non-committal discussion about late January - why then to re-open? Why can we not re-open as soon as Yolo is in the red tier when public health has determined it is safe to do so?
3. What steps need to be taken in between now and when Yolo returns to the red tier to ensure a timely re-open? What are the barriers that would prevent the schools from re-opening as soon as Yolo is in the red tier?
4. How can parents, the Board, the Union, and the schools help eliminate barriers that would delay re-opening the schools beyond when Yolo returns to the red tier?
5. Why must the District move sequentially through the many many steps and phases it has set up in its plan to return? Why can't these phases overlap? Why can't students in cohorts in Phase 2 begin now (which is allowed even in the Purple tier) and when Yolo returns to red, move straight to phase 4 or 5? Or if the District is now delaying the in-person cohorts due to the return to the purple tier, when we are back in the red tier, why can't phase 2 and 3 be launched simultaneously? It seems the phases are being used to block progression to a return, as opposed to accelerate it.

Thank you for your time and attention to these questions.

Regards,

Josh

Monica Roque

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 10:41 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: John Bowes
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Green category

Revised

>

>

>>

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

>>

>> Erin Brennan

Monica Roque

From: Samantha King [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:58 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: BOE meeting Public Comment

Categories: Green category

Hello,

As the BOE is once again set to discuss a safe return to school plan, I feel that parents, teachers and other stakeholders are woefully short of information. As a first step, DJUSD and the BOE to provide as much information as possible on all aspects of the return to school plan. I am particularly interested in four key areas:

- 1.) Ventilation upgrades at each school site (what is the status at each school, do the new ventilation upgrades meet COVID standards?)
- 2) Social Distancing plans at each school site (for example: Da Vinci Jr High and Emerson are not set up for social distance with indoor hallways-how will you address this)
- 3) Protection for teachers and staff at each school site including: PPE, substitutes, teachers who can't be in person, etc...
- 4) Health screenings, contact tracing and quarantine rules.

I understand you have a difficult job before you, but keeping your stakeholders in the dark regarding important details breeds distrust.

Best Regards
Sam King

Monica Roque

From: Tristan Leong [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 2:08 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comments Regarding School Reopening.

Categories: Green category

Dear Davis Joint Unified School Board:

I've decided to write this letter pleading with the School Board to take the initiative and develop a workable and actionable COVID-19 "re-opening" plan prior to January 2021. This struggle is not unique to DJUSD, however DJUSD is significantly behind other school districts in formulating contingency plans and in balancing or mitigating the impacts distance learning has caused relative to the prevalence or risk of COVID-19 transmission posed within the District. Even though several sister school districts are now in the "purple" tier, as is Yolo, they have in place plans to return the students to a hybrid model as soon as their respective county moves back into "red". Yet other school districts remain open because they moved decisively to find the needed solutions, engage the appropriate parties, and get a plan approved and implemented.

The failure of the DJUSD Board to develop a plan has significant consequences. The Board's systemic lack of transparency, inability to identify constraints and limiting factors, inability to develop solutions, and reliance upon misleading survey polls to draw their conclusions has led to a decision "paralysis" that shows no signs of abating. These failures mean that children and their parents are left to fill the huge void that distance learning has left in its wake. For many in Davis, this may not be an imposition (either financially or socially/emotionally), but that should not be the DJUSD's assumption or expectation when planning for eventual school re-opening, and it is unsustainable. It is alarming that the School Board appears to assume and expect that parents and families will provide resources that are unique to educators and educational institutions. DJUSD should be proactive rather than reactive in developing solutions to prevent further educational as well as social, emotional, and psychological harm.

For a School District that prides itself on its educational reputation, progressivism, and forward thinking/ data-driven decisions, their current indecision stands in stark contrast. Further, DJUSD's indecision perpetuates and amplifies the fear and uncertainty that the District is incapable of developing a plan that has any credibility. The Board should combat and allay these fears by putting forth a plan for public evaluation. This plan needs to identify all of the challenges associated with safe school re-openings so that solutions can be developed, vetted, and reach consensus in a public forum. The fact that DJUSD hasn't held these discussions in a way that is transparent or obvious/available to the public undermines the confidence that teachers, parents, and children may have with any future Board decision.

Moreover, any planning efforts are not occurring fast enough or in a meaningful way to counter and mitigate the mounting educational and societal harm to children and families. The Board's decision to expend \$1.6 million dollars on distance learning programs, internet training, online "educational" programs, and computers to facilitate distance learning must be evaluated. However, is the success of this distance learning program curriculum being evaluated? How are the multiple and competing tools and programs in use being compared and assessed? Why does it appear that DJUSD ignores the results from schools that are currently operating in-person within Yolo County (having been approved after developing a plan) without traceable transmission? Why are we not learning from their examples? What is unique to DJUSD's situation that we cannot apply the results to our own situation? Why does DJUSD not hold substantive discussions about the District's logistical (PPE) needs to safely reopen, or identify the issues the teachers need to see resolved in order to feel safe operating "in-person?" Further, why has DJUSD spent \$260k on PPE if the schools aren't

open? Is this PPE sufficient for a return to school program? How much would it cost to change the HVAC systems, provide medical grade protective equipment or better for teachers and staff, or other more effective options? These questions can be answered, but it requires DJUSD to engage in the development of a plan rather than non-specific public polling of the DJUSD parents.

It is difficult to tell whether the DJUSD Return to School Survey contains any valuable information for planning purposes. The survey and its questions have apparent confirmation biases and flaws, and there is one clear conclusion that should be unsurprising and remains unchanged: there is a divide within the Davis parent community regarding when and how their children should return to school. The Board should take note that a majority of parents, 62%, would opt for a full in-person or hybrid system if offered. Approximately 40% of parents do not support a return to school at this point, with many stating they would not return until a vaccine is “available.” This divide cannot be addressed with a single plan or approach. Rather, DJUSD must address both needs with separate “opt in” provisions and aligned curriculum to ensure all students and parents’ needs are fulfilled. Those who wish to continue distance learning for the uncertain future should be allowed to do so. Those parents who would opt to return their children to classroom instruction should be offered that option. The DJUSD School Board has not provided responsive leadership and fulfilled its obligations to the majority of the District community by virtue of its indecision and inability to develop a re-opening plan.

Sincerely,

Tristan Leong
Parent of 5th and 1st Grader.

Monica Roque

From: Jennifer Raven [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 2:37 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Phase 2 cohorts plan is too risky

Categories: Green category

Dear DJUSD Trustees:

We are aware that there is a plan in place to start Phase 2, small cohorts, after Thanksgiving. The timing of this is incredibly bad, with coronavirus infection rates skyrocketing in our county and state. There is an added issue of students potentially coming back from extended family holidays, and the likelihood of asymptomatic transmission. Although parents have the choice of whether or not to take this risk for their families, staff often does not. In addition, a high percentage of paraeducators are over 40, and have a much greater chance of serious illness. With up to 16 people contained in an indoor classroom, the risk is high. Other school districts have had to reverse their reopening plans; let's not make DJUSD to be one of them. I strongly urge you to delay Phase 2 until January, then reassess the safety of reopening based on current metrics.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Raven

Monica Roque

From: Kari Oldham [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 5:07 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Green category

After sitting back for 8 months and waiting for action from the school board on this vitally important issue, the Davis community can't afford to wait any longer. When will schools be open? What is the timeline for the schools to open? What obstacles are preventing schools from opening? We have seen plans from our neighboring Yolo County School Districts, Woodland Joint Unified (Which is proposing opening on 12/7 for students eligible for in person instruction in the purple tier), and Washington Unified (Agreement reached to start in person on 11/30 for students eligible for in person instruction in the purple tier). DJUSD on the other hand has not been transparent in it's reopening plan or timeline.

As a response to this lack of communication and transparency, the DJUSD Parent Coalition has been formed. Our coalition membership is rapidly growing, with the hope that our demands for accountability will not fall on deaf ears. When conditions allow, we want our children back in school.

Additionally, we know more about COVID-19 transmission in schools. Dr. Sisson supported opening schools in Placer county. Please listen to her responses and heed her advice.

DJUSD Parent Coalition hopes to continually support our schools and teachers in the transition back to the classroom, but DJUSD it's time to go back!

Kari Oldham
Parent of a Kindergartener and 6th Grader

Suggested Questions for Dr. Sisson:

- 1) What does the data show about opening schools and transmission in classrooms?
- 2) Is there a community rate in which schools should close down?
- 3) Yolo county has several schools open currently, is there any evidence of transmission in those schools?
- 4) Is there data to show an observable difference in transmission between the hybrid model and full time?
- 5) Are there any resources available to collaborate with the Yolo County Public Health Department at this time? Specifically employee training, educational resources, PPE, COVID testing, COVID contact tracing.

Monica Roque

From: Robert Oldham [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 5:59 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment

>
> 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 socioeconomically disadvantaged students and those with special needs.
>
> I have a sixth grade student named Chase who has ADHD and ASD and a 504 plan that hasn't been accommodated during distance learning. Chases' teachers are amazing and do their best but distance learning is entirely insufficient; he ends up spending as much time submitting assignments as completing them and he cannot complete work independently. Chase frequently gets frustrated and will shut down after his 4 hours of zoom meetings, unable to complete homework for the rest of the day to no fault of his own.

> 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. His handwriting is deteriorating and he has regressed significantly socially as well. 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 do not necessarily contribute significantly contribute to transmission (particularly elementary), certainly not enough to justify continued closure. 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 cannot in good conscience keep kids out of school indefinitely. We are strongly considering finding a private school or moving 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: Lupita Torres [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 6:51 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Green category

Good evening Board members and Staff,

I am writing this letter to all of you to ask that you please consider reopening the Resource Center at MME and hire a full time IT, in order to have a technical assistant at that location that all the students in the Davis Joint Unified can have access to. The hours need to keep in mind that some parents are not able to go to the district office to get technical during the office hours, and even then, the district office is not able to help out with technical issues unless it is by appointment or during the short hours the office is open.

Some folks are still working and others may live so far away from the district offices that it is a major gap to have the time and in some cases the transportation access to get to the offices for technical support.

Considering the overwhelming amount of unduplicated students at MME, this would be a proper use of the supplemental funds, and arguably one of the reasons the funds were appropriated for. Some students require in-person support with their computers, or have questions that would best be resolved with the availability of a staff that is able to assist them.

This resource center would be open to all students in the district, and if it is done properly, it can be held outside whenever possible, and also if they provide PPE for the tech support folks, and ensure that all students and parents that receive help are following COVID protocol, this goal can be achieved even when the cases of coronavirus are high.

Our students desperately need help and some more than others, and we deserve access to the support and help that our taxpayer money pays for.

Please consider my suggestion, as I have been asking since the day before school began. My own daughter is having technical issues with her class and although she is receiving help from her teacher and counselor, the barrier of not having access to someone else to personally ask questions to has made it difficult to turn in certain assignments. There's more I would like to say but that's it for now, thank you.

--Lupita Torres