

Monica Roque

From: Cassie Majestic [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 8:29 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: hybrid comment

Categories: Orange category

Good evening,

I see that you have children attending online 830-12 daily, and in person 2 days per week in the afternoon. What about our TK and Kinder kiddos who only attend school 830-12 daily?

More importantly, are you reaching out to school sites to ask them if they'd like to provide their own hybrid model options for your approval? For example, Fairfield Elementary has mixed age classrooms. We are a very small school, and dividing the classes in half would essentially have a total of about 20 kids on campus at a time, spread across 2 classes. We have a large field and outdoor amphitheaters for learning. We have only 2 teachers on campus. Can't they work together to propose their own model, using the strengths of our campus and their knowledge of our cohorts? What if our teachers are willing to return to campus sooner than those teachers who are hesitant at your other schools? It seems our school is getting lost in your conversations.

Please, I urge you to reach out and open up conversations directly with the teachers and principal of Fairfield Elementary. We are a school that can simplify the reopening process and we are actually open safely in this pandemic! We are being unnecessarily burdened by the bureaucracy of this board. I believe our teachers are more than capable of planning to meet the needs of families who want to be in person, those who want to stay home, and do it with enthusiasm and swiftness!

Thank you for your time and attention.

Cassie Majestic

Monica Roque

From: Rihaf Elfarra [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 5:47 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Orange category

Dear Members of the Board,

(1) I managed to keep COVID-19 away from my house and my family for the past year. Why do you insist on bringing it to my house by reopening schools before I get vaccinated. Kids might not get sick with the virus according to some studies (hopefully) but they can still transmit it to adults.

(2) I strongly suggest that the time and energy wasted in drafting and debating complex (and disruptive) plans for re-opening be spent instead toward making distance learning better for our students and teachers and planning for a full in-person opening in fall of 2021.

(3) Kids that need to get in person teaching can have small cohorts for that. We love our teachers, we want our teachers to be safe and healthy and we don't want to have different teachers. It is highly disruptive for the students and the teachers to change things at the end of the year.

(4) How exactly does re-opening with social distancing, masks and all the necessary restrictions help kids emotionally and socially when they cannot interact in any meaningful way with their peers?

Please keep our kids, the teachers and the community healthy.

Rihaf Alfarra

Monica Roque

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 5:40 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment: Please Do Not Halve The Baby

Categories: Orange category

Dear Members of the Board:

My apologies to the extent I am expressing a sentiment conveyed to you previously ...

You now sit like Solomon, being asked to decide if and how our children will return safely to school. There appears to be growing chorus, arguably gravitating to our natural inclination, that the most logical and equitable solution is hybrid instruction (partial in-person return/partial distance learning). Yet, like the remedy proposed by Solomon to the two mothers seeking his counsel, cutting the baby in half/hybrid is NOT a workable solution.

I am not advocating for either distance learning or full time in-person instruction over the other. But hybrid is not the answer. If there are concerns with a full time return to in-person instruction that give you pause, those concerns exist with a hybrid option. Therefore, hybrid is no more acceptable than a return to full time in-person instruction. Please resist the natural temptation to reach a middle ground when one does not exist.

Your decision is all the more difficult because you are being asked to evaluate what is a health and safety issue(s) (be it potential infection/mental health, etc.) with the practical considerations of whether there is adequate funding to make a full time in-person return possible. With the proverbial jury still out on whether a truly safe return is currently possible, the vaccine implementation behind schedule, the disconnect between the Governor and the Legislature as to a path forward, the lacking consensus amongst members of the DJUSD community, etc., it seems the most prudent decision would be to put off a return until fall. This would hopefully allow the science and vaccine to catch up and avoid the almost certain cutting of corners that would result to implement even a hybrid return when not enough dollars are available.

There is no easy answer(s). Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Rob

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Monica Roque

From: Joshua Ciccotti [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 5:20 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Orange category

Good evening,

The Board's decision to require all teachers be offered vaccinations before returning to work lacks any grounding in the numerous recommendations from local, state, and federal public health officials, as well as the Governor, and will only serve to effectively prevent our children from returning to in-person learning at all this year, and maybe in to next. Would all parents like all teachers be vaccinated before returning? Absolutely. But it is not realistic because there are insufficient doses to cover the elderly, who are at greatest risk of death, it has been found to be unnecessary to support a safe in-person environment, and it hurts our children who are suffering from screen school in the process.

Learning is essential. School is essential. Since when did the Board decide that screen school was a sufficient substitute? It surely is not for a great many parents (almost 60%) who are ready to return to some type of in-person learning. And if school and in-person learning is essential, then teachers are essential workers. Yet they are the ONLY essential workers I know who are not working in person. Luckily this Board is not responsible for other essential workers getting back to work. Otherwise, no one would receive healthcare from their primary care team (essential service), no one would be able to go to the grocery store and buy food (essential service), no one would get their mail at the post office (essential services). So why is this body not treating education as an essential service, mitigating the risk, and returning to in-person learning using the layered approach to safety protocols repeatedly described by public health professionals. No other essential service is being managed this way. All other essential workers (myself included) and industries have found safe models to employ to provide the essential services while taking care of their employees. What I am not in support of is waiting for all teachers to be provided or offered the vaccine before returning because it can't happen, there aren't enough doses.

We fully support waiting and applying county/state public health official listed guidelines to safely return kids back to school while also ensuring that teachers, staff, and support personnel remain safe. California Governor Newsome's "Safe Schools for All" provides money for resources such as PPE and other material to get kids back in the classroom. Is DJUSD really going to turn down \$3.6 MILLION in funding because it's going to require teacher vaccinations of which there are insufficient doses to provide? Turning down \$3.6 MILLION in funding is antithetical to your role on the Board as acting in the best interests of the children. This decision will be remembered every time the school seeks another bond or tax measure. I have voted to approve every single one of these in the past. Why would we do so in the future when you turned down funding to safely return our children?

Your graphics as to the conditions to move to phase 3 are also terribly misleading. You making vaccines a prerequisite, and then listing that as an external factor beyond your control for when schools re-open, doesn't make it so. You can't create a requirement, and then disclaim that you have no control over it. It's also clear that this non-fact or science based decision was voted on without public comment after Trustee Adams made the motion. Shouldn't you have asked Dr. Sisson whether there was doses sufficient to actually meet that pre-requisite before you made it so?

In sum, DJUSD continues to fail its students based upon re-opening criteria that have no grounding in epidemiology or public health, has no intent to return this year and does not appear to be motivated to return in the fall. I can't be in a group of parents without them discussing what private school they should enroll in for the fall because we have given up on our District serving our children.

Parents who want to keep their children home are having their choices respected. Why can't parents who want to return also have their choice honored? Stop failing our kids.

Josh Ciccotti

Monica Roque

From: Alan Krivanek [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 5:19 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: public comment

Categories: Orange category

Dear Board of Directors,

I currently have two students in DJUSD (5th and 7th grade). I am disappointed to see such a slow responding plan to partial and full reopening of our schools.

The return to school conditions the Board has approved go beyond the recommendations of the Yolo Public Health Officer for safe school opening.

The return to school conditions the Board has approved go beyond the recommendations of the CDC, whose Director yesterday stated .. “There is increasing data to suggest that schools can safely reopen and that safe reopening does not suggest that teachers need to be vaccinated,” CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky

Overly stringent standards are hindering your primary mission, that of educating our children, and if the plan to partial and full opening continues as outlined, this will be a disservice to the students and to the community.

Sincerely,

Alan Krivanek

Monica Roque

From: Greg Brucker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 5:15 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; John Bowes; Matthew Best; Rody Boonchouy; Scott Thomsen; Kellie Sequeira
Subject: **PUBLIC COMMENT** 2/4 Board of Ed Meeting re: last date to return to hybrid
Categories: Orange category

Good Evening, DJUSD School Board and District Administration,

I very much appreciate the very complicated position you are in and, as I have mentioned in the past, cannot imagine the weight on your shoulders in knowing that your decisions can literally affect whether people in our community live or die through this pandemic. As not just a teacher in the district, but as a parent of little ones enrolled in the djUSD, and as a long time community member, I am deeply appreciative of your advocacy and action as a board which ensures that, as compared to so many other districts, we as teachers and school staff, are being heard and considered as much as anyone else. That shows a great care and concern for our greater community. So, thank you.

I have recently written to you in public comment asking if we should shift gears and ultimately become focused on what re-entrance of school buildings and a more regular order of things looks like in Fall. I again want to thank you for continuing to put effort into how to enhance current distance learning practice, and again encourage you to start working toward how schools will look and function when we start after the summer break. We cannot be left unprepared for that moment. We need to start the planning now.

Having said all that, tonight I am sharing my thoughts regarding the date after which we shouldn't start a hybrid model, and instead stay with distance learning. That date is April 5th. Here is my thinking:

As an educator, one of the most complicated parts of this year is fitting a whole year of curriculum into two quarters of time. Though we have an hour compared to 50 minutes in the Jr. High Schools, it is a mad scramble to ensure that we have enough teaching time to actually get the appropriate content and amount of content taught and understood, because we only see the kids for 1/2 of the school year, or 20 of the 40 weeks, on the quarter system. Given that, the idea of throwing our district into upheaval to change to a hybrid model this Spring concerns me gravely in this regard, among many others which I have expressed in other letters to you. So I am advocating in favor of the last date to change to hybrid being the very first day of the fourth quarter in the secondary schools. That date is April 5. After that, trying to change mid-quarter to a completely new and different system would create enough upheaval that it will generally upend us as secondary educators from being able to complete our curriculum that we specifically planned for this year. We cannot afford to lose any more teaching time. Students cannot afford to lose any more class/learning time. We need to keep focused on achieving the larger goals of completing the year's curriculum. So, again, I am advocating for April 5 to be the date after which, we should stay in distance learning.

With my appreciation for your care, concern and efforts for our school faculty and staff as much as

our community,

Greg Brucker

Teacher, Emerson/Da Vinci & Harper Jr. High Schools

Parent, Pre-K and K in the DJUSD

Monica Roque

From: shu shen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 3:20 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: reopening plan

Categories: Orange category

Good afternoon. I'm the mother of a CCE student. I recently came across your draft of the phase 3 (hybrid) elementary school reopening plan that is going to be discussed at the board meeting later today. I'm very concerned with this reopening plan for reasons stated below.

First, I think the reopening plan is only going to widen the inequality among students in the district. Given only 4 hours of in-person study in school, families with working parents who can afford extra expenses of child care would likely continue their current arrangements for the rest of the weekdays because only 4 hours are taken out of concern.

Second, because a lot of families are going to continue their current arrangement of after-school cares, pod cares, CDCs, etc., this minimal 4 hours per week in person time likely will not translate into lower COVID transmission among students, if compared to a plan with significantly more in person time, say half day for four days like in the version discussed in the previous board meeting, and with families continue the current childcare arrangement out of school. Families that struggle during the pandemic, however, probably will not deem 2 hours a day as enough incentive of taking off time from work to send-in/pick-up kids in the middle of the day.

Third, I'm concerned that the district is not requiring teachers to get the vaccine when offered (unless medical reasons). This is not helpful to curb possible COVID transmissions among teachers. We love our teachers, we want to keep them safe. I'm also disappointed that there has been no mention so far (maybe I missed?) of a concrete plan of getting the teachers vaccinated. The district could, for example, collaborate with the university to roll out some vaccination clinics.

Summing up, I think the current hybrid plan where strong conditions (red tier, availability of two shots of vaccines) are imposed for only having elementary students returning in-person for 4 hours a week is not well-thought nor fair. It is not helping our students much, neither our parents. It is not guaranteeing a low virus transmission rate for reasons I stated above, either. On the other hand, requiring only availability of the vaccines but not having plans or requirements to get those shots into arms is also a big concern.

I hope the district could address my concerns in a newer revision of the reopening plan. Thank you for taking the time to read my email. Have a great rest of the week.

Best,

Shu

Monica Roque

From: Michael Creedon [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 2:55 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Orange category

Trustees,

We hope that you are hearing the growing chorus of scientists, public health experts and government agencies who are loudly calling for reopening schools, on every major media source. We hope you listen to what they are saying...it's going to become much, much louder in the weeks ahead as cases continue to fall.

It was heartening to hear that Woodland listened to Dr. Sisson, who strongly recommended reopening grades K-6, and is moving ahead on doing so. I applaud them for grasping the science, and following the recommendations of the California Department of Public Health, along with the CDC, WHO, UNICEF and the usual, long list of experts who are calling for open schools. Had Davis done so, we could have opened K-6 this week.

It's never too late to hear the evidence, and correct your course. To do so is honorable. Digging your heels in, however, and refusing to correct course despite the evidence is simply stubborn. In light of the way this issue is already being treated in the media, and will surely be treated by history, we're now talking about legacies - please don't make Davis the city that denied the science, and needlessly hurt our children.

Regards,

Mike Creedon

Monica Roque

From: Heather Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 2:54 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Orange category

Board of Education,

If you are requiring teacher vaccination prior to reopening DJUSD schools, then what are your plans to expedite DJUSD teacher vaccines? Every day I speak to co-workers across the United States. Teachers in other parts of the US are being vaccinated.

I urge you to pull together a team to create a plan to expediate teacher vaccination. Many children & families need DJUSD schools to open once Yolo County in in the Red Tier. How can the parents of DJUSD students help in these efforts?

Thank you,
Heather Jones

Monica Roque

From: Kari Oldham [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 2:27 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Orange category

To whomever might listen,

As a frontline nurse, I urge you to please reconsider the conditions set to restart school at DJUSD. Communities who have school open for in-person learning are at a lower risk for viral transmission (source CDC). Pediatricians across the state are against school closures for increased harm to children directly stemming from not being in school (source AAP). Doctors from major hospital systems such as UCSF, are against school closures due to community harm. Unless you have completely lost trust in the people whose job it is to protect others by not putting them in harm's way, then you are making a mistake in your decision to delay school opening beyond what guidelines were set by state and county public health. In past county presentations, vaccines were expected to be available for teachers by the end of January, but now they could be months away due to the age-based system set by the state of California. But one thing is clear, vaccines are not required for school opening. Delaying school reopening to await vaccines is both unnecessary and harmful to our community. It has been shown over and over again that schools protect the community. They promote health, opportunities, harm reduction, and a safe space for growth and learning. They serve as the centerpiece of a vibrant and healthy community. During this pandemic, it would literally save lives by opening schools.

Several years back I encountered a patient who I will never forget. This was a young man of 16 who was separated from his mother due to homelessness. The rules at the women's shelter where his mother was placed did not allow for him, a male, to stay with her. He was placed in a shelter in Oakland, but had attended school in Hayward a short 20 minute drive without traffic. Most kids when faced with this situation would end up as a drop out statistic, but this young man would ride a city bus for several hours each day just for the opportunity to go to his former neighborhood school with people whom he felt cared about him. Within the walls of the school he found comfort and safety. It pains me to reflect on the obstacles he had to overcome just to seek medical care and pick up a prescription because he was underage. To think that if his situation were to occur today he would have yet another obstacle from school closures to face. Can you really look yourself in the mirror and acknowledge that you failed to do your duty without any concrete justification? It's simple, conditions to open school will be based on guidance from public health officials. There fixed it for you, now your turn.

Kari Oldham RN, BSN

Monica Roque

From: Kerry Callahan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 1:54 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment for 2/4 Board Meeting

Categories: Orange category

Dear DJUSD BOE,

First I would like to thank all of you and the administration, teachers and staff for all the work done thus far to offer distance and some in-person learning to students. That said, the time has come to do more to get students back in school.

I understand that we need to follow the science and ensure safety measures for a safe return are met. I believe your plan, for the most part aligns, with just that and I commend your efforts. However, just recently, Governor Newsom along with CDC Director Rochelle Walensky stated that schools could open safely without the need for all teachers to be vaccinated. Additionally, the science is clearly showing that when reasonable safety measures are put in place (masking, distancing, MERV-13 filters) that transmissions in school are not occurring. Waiting until you are in the red tier and until all teachers are fully vaccinated, is just not necessary. People are scared, I get it, but being at school with appropriate safety measures is the safest place for our students and staff to be. I know, not only because the science supports it, but because I have experienced it firsthand.

Before I share my firsthand experience in hopes of persuading you to reconsider your conditions for reopening, let me first share this. As a district administrator for another school district, I appreciate and understand all that must be considered, planned for, and implemented to ensure a safe return to in-person instruction. I also appreciate and understand that each school district's ecology (culture) uniquely impacts how they are able to respond to issues that all districts face. While I know what it took to open the district I work in and can objectively speculate on what's happening internally in DJUSD, I humbly acknowledge that I really don't know all that you are facing in your pursuit to do what is best for students. In trusting, first and foremost, that DJUSD is all about doing what is best for students, I want to thank you for all that you are doing to get our students back as quickly and safely as possible. I would like to be a part of the solution and not just another person passing unfair judgement.

Now for my own experience. The district I work in has been providing in-person instruction successfully for students since early October. We were all worried about returning to in-person learning, but based on parent surveys, etc. we forged ahead and developed a plan, collaboratively with our associations, to reopen our schools once we had the greenlight from the state (red tier) to do so. We aligned our protocols, etc. with the guidance from CDPH and once we hit the red tier we opened shortly thereafter. We opened with a 5-day program; in-person students are served in the morning (8:30-12:00 @ elementary & 8:00-12:30 @ secondary) and the afternoons are reserved for serving distance learners (although many teachers are live streaming distance students during in-person instruction) and for teacher preparation. We have between 30-40% of our students choosing distance learning, which has allowed for lower class sizes and physical distancing for in-person learning (NOTE: initially no less than 3ft midchair to midchair and now 4ft per new guidance - according to CDPH, midchair to midchair is acceptable meaning of the "between chairs" language in the new guidance). We ensure all teachers have 6ft distancing from students and each other and have required masks for all (TK-12) since day 1 of being open. We put MERV-13 filters throughout our HVAC systems and follow handwashing

and cleaning protocols. We have also put protocols outside the classrooms in place to ensure safety. What we have done is very similar to steps you are taking to safely reopen. Since opening we have had close to 400 cases of COVID-19 that have resulted in us having to quarantine close contacts. Now you might think 400 cases and all those quarantines, "Why is she asking us to reconsider our conditions for reopening?" Well, because of this: all but 2 of the 400 cases (and the 2 are still questionable as to link) would have happened regardless of whether we opened or not. The cases were not linked to school and, other than the 2 in question, no close contacts that had to quarantine tested positive as a result of being a contact. Our data, even with the most minimal distancing between students, confirms the science that transmissions are not occurring in school. Furthermore, right here in Davis, the data is affirming the science. My son has been at Davis Kids Klub since July and not once, that I know of, has there been an issue. I'm sure there might have been quarantines, or cases of positivity, but in 7 months my son never had to quarantine nor has he tested positive for COVID-19.

We were all reluctant to open and were worried it wouldn't work - that people would get sick, etc. - but we did it for our students and families that asked us to try. Educators are essential workers and if we have parents willing to send their most prized possessions to school because they understand the importance of education, even knowing the risks, then we owe it to them to meet our obligations as essential workers. Front line health care, food service, and other essential workers are showing up everyday. It's time for us to as well.

I am a privileged person with means to "make it work" for my special needs son and our family during this time. I am further blessed as an educator that I have the knowledge and skill to actually help my son progress in his learning. I am not writing to you for my son. We can and will make it right for him no matter what happens. I am writing to you for all the students and families who only have you to make this right for them. They need our essential service and skill!!!

Thank you for your time,

Kerry Callahan


Monica Roque

From: Anoosh Jorjorian [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 1:43 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Orange category

Dear Trustees of the Board of Education:

In my work with the ApoYolo Project since March 2020, I have seen the cost of the pandemic on some of the most marginalized families in DJUSD. As we consider the question of whether opening schools would benefit these families, I would like to present the evidence based on our direct experience.

Bear in mind that many of our families are essential workers. A few are farmworkers, many others work in food service. Over the summer, we did not receive requests to assist with childcare, but when the school year began, these requests escalated.

Our volunteers worked hard to get these families set up with the Catalyst program, because our families face the choice: work or school? Staying home with their children means they can't work. Childcare means the difference between earning an income, or none.

For our families, the main issue is not whether or not school is open, but whether they can access childcare. After all, school hours are not the only hours these parents need care. The subsidies for the Catalyst program are inaccessible for a few of our most desperate families, which is why I reached out to the Davis Schools Foundation for assistance in finding a solution.

Meanwhile, the parents agitating for opening schools have not approached me nor any other organization that serves these marginalized students asking what these families need.

Lastly, please remember that our *comunidad Latina* has suffered disproportionately high rates of COVID-19 in the county. When one member of the family contracts COVID-19, the whole family must quarantine. This means two weeks of lost work and income, because most of these families do not have paid sick leave.

Please rely on evidence and direct experience as you consider what is best for marginalized children in the district, not the assumptions of parents who talk about these families, but know none of them personally.

Thank you, Anoosh Jorjorian

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

[REDACTED]

www.raiseinclusivekids.com
www.davisphoenixco.org/

www.anooshjorjorian.com

English . Español . Français . Wolof

pronouns / pronombres / prenomes: She / Ella / Elle and They / Elle / On

Monica Roque

From: Debra Skinner [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 1:42 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Orange category

As parent to 5th and 7th graders I was disappointed to observe the new hybrid model for Elementary which include only 4 hours of in-person time per student. The return to school conditions the Board approved go beyond the recommendations of the Yolo Public Health Officer for safe school opening. If the Board insists on sticking to this stringent standard, the return to school is months away. If after all this time elementary students are then only offered 4 hours per week, this will be a disappointment and a disservice to the students.

Debra Skinner

Monica Roque

From: Robert V.O. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 1:32 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment (from 5th grade student)

Categories: Orange category

Greetings,

Please see the below public comment for your board meeting today from my 5th grade DJUSD student Kaylynn:

Dear DJUSD,

The schools of Davis need to be opened. A lot of students have suffered depression because they have been away from their friends. Everyone has been socially starved. Social activity is required for everyone, especially elementary students. It is just the beginning of our life and we're being locked away from a good education and friends. Schools need to be opened!

Sincerely,

"K"

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Thank you,

Robert Van Ostrand

Monica Roque

From: Christine Baker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 1:30 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment
Attachments: Letter for PUBLIC COMMENT for the DJUSD Board of Education Meeting 2.docx

Categories: Orange category

Good afternoon!

Please see the attachment for my letter for public comment for this evening's board meeting.

Thank you!

Christine Baker

Letter for PUBLIC COMMENT for the DJUSD Board of Education Meeting 2-4-2021

From: Christine Baker, Davis Senior High School

Dear Members of the Board:

I want to start by thanking you for all that you and DJUSD have done to keep students, their families, teachers, and staff safe during this pandemic. Please know that your work and your dedication to safety has not gone unnoticed.

I have been teaching for the past 17.5 years, the past year and a half as a teacher in the district. Teaching is a huge part of my life and my identity. I thrive in the presence of students. I gain energy from their discussions and those moments where something suddenly clicks. I love the one-on-one conversations I get to have with them about books and writing. I miss seeing their faces on a daily basis. And while, yes, I can converse with students, teaching online has been a very different experience for me. I teach to a majority of black boxes filled with names. And no matter how much I attempt to make online teaching a similar experience to what a student might get inside of my classroom in person, that's just an impossible task. I've spent this year anxious and at times rather depressed. And I am sure that my students have felt what I feel, perhaps on an even greater level.

I tell you this, so that you understand that when I say that I do *not* think returning to school this year is the right thing, that you understand where I'm coming from. I want to be back; I just do not think that it is the best decision for all of us right now.

We have weeks until teachers will be able to get the vaccine. Then weeks until the vaccine is at its full efficacy. Teachers will need time to prepare and train for a transition to a hybrid model. In a school year where one of our primary goals was to create a stable experience for students, throwing us back into the classroom in the middle of the year only disrupts that stability. Learning virtually may not be ideal, but we have created routines and there is security in routines.

For those hoping that a return to school right now will help students feel normal, I need them to know that it will not be normal. If we're adapting a simulcast hybrid approach, that means that half of my students are at home while half are in the room—and *all* of them are on Zoom. For those in the classroom, they'll be seated 6 feet from each other, masked, and not interacting with one another in person. There are no group projects or turn-to-a-partner-and-and-discuss moments. There will be responding in a chat or turning on their mic so that the students at home can hear them too. I think that returning to a hybrid model will only disrupt the careful planning and community building that teachers have established in their online classrooms.

Again, I thank you for keeping me, my family, and my students safe.

Sincerely,

Christine Baker

English Teacher

Monica Roque

From: Erinne O'Hara Aboytes [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 1:26 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Comments for tonight's meeting

Categories: Orange category

Hello.

Comments for tonight's meeting:

1. Going back to school - I want to submit my feedback about going back to school. I would like to see kids go back to school as planned...when we are back in the red tier and when teachers have been completely vaccinated (plus two weeks).
2. Measure M bond repayment - Please provide a status on what the plan is to repay the Measure M bond money that was used a while back and not repaid yet.

Thank you,
Erinne (Parent of a third and fifth grader)

Sent from my iPhone

Monica Roque

From: Fu Liu [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 12:55 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Orange category

Hi,

First of all, I am not sure whether having the condition "Teachers and staff who are being asked to return have had access to both doses of an FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine, and are provided with up to two weeks for recovery following the second vaccine" as a requirement for our school (particularly K-6) to go back hybrid model is reasonable.

However, I can understand teachers' concern. But what made me most uncomfortable is that this requirement does not require teachers to get a vaccine. If we have to wait around for all the teachers to have a chance to get a vaccine, then why not require all of them to get them? If all teachers get the vaccines, then it could protect the students in a much better way. The way this requirement is stated leaves me a bad feeling that this is all about the safety of teachers but not the students.

Fu (mom of two djUSD students)

Monica Roque

From: Zora Dostalikova Voss [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:42 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT: When will the schools start hybrid or in-person classes?

Categories: Orange category

Hello School Board and School District,

As you know, the local, state, and national news are all about school re-opening since mid January.

Can you please advise where this district stands?

The current Yolo Covid numbers are good enough that state and Yolo County health officer would be fine if the schools re-open. The county may go to Red tier on 2/16. Is the district ready to open on 3/1 then? Where is this district on opening the schools?

Why is there a requirement in this district that educators/teachers/etc. have to wait extra 2 weeks after the second dose to go back to school? Can you advise which other professions are following this? My doctor and also my dentist was at work prior to receiving the vaccine, the day they got the first vaccine, etc. Nobody had the luxury of waiting for both 2 doses and then extra weeks. Why is this a requirement in this district? Where is the scientific evidence that WAIT is necessary? Why is this a requirement if no scientific evidence exists? CDC or state does not support this requirement.

What is even the status of Davis district employees getting vaccinated? Has that started? What is the % of employees that have received the first dose?

Last night I heard at DHS Parent zoom night that teachers would like to go back to teaching regular in-person classes. If that is the case, why is the teacher's union or district not listening to them and allowing them to return sooner? Who's is the teachers union really representing?

What is the plan for FALL semester? Will the school classes be 100% in person? Again, I did not get an answer yesterday if DHS will be open for in-person classes for fall semester. We all need to plan and see if we should stay here in Davis and just 'keep our fingers crossed', or we should start thinking about moving somewhere where schools will be open for in-person classes for sure. This is extremely frustrating.

Unfortunately it looks there are still way to many questions and not clear answers. It would be really appreciated if you can provide some answers to these questions soon.

Thank you.

Zora Voss
parent of 9th and 10th grade student

Monica Roque

From: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: RE: Reopening schools

From: Ivanka Dilova-Knettle [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 8:50 PM
To: Maddie Shumway [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Reopening schools

Dear Maddie Shumway,
I would like to deposit this public comment for tomorrow's board meeting.

Dear DJUSD Board of Education,

First and foremost, I want to express my appreciation for your steady, thorough and considerate approach to reopening public schools. It is in the best interest of the whole of the Davis community, and especially teachers, staff and children, that this be well thought-out and implemented process.

And yes, teachers have the right to safeguard their own health and that of their families.

I also want to add my voice in support of other Davis residents that raised concerns about the initially proposed hybrid model - concerns about the direct instructional time, the adequacy of time between the two cohorts to sanitize properly and other concerns already shared.

Above all, though, I most share the concerns of Davis parents and teachers that reassigning students to new teachers and thus separating kids from their cornerstones of stability in uncertain times will be traumatic. Not every family, that would like to send their kids to school, would be able to do so on account of concerns for the safety of loved ones at a higher risk. And while those are the people who contribute the least to the spreading of the virus, their children and caregivers will be penalized the most. These families will have to deal with both shouldering an increased burden of the emotional impact, as well as the educational advancement of their kids. In short, could we come up with a model in which the elementary schoolchildren are not separated from their teachers in the middle of their school year? Maybe having aides assist teachers during simultaneous instruction of children in the school and online?

While the desire of many parents to see their kids return to a "brick-and-mortar" school as soon as possible is well justified, and in the best interest of children and educators, the timing of such return is of utmost importance. Should that be done before wide-spread vaccination, it could potentially cause a further increase in the overall numbers of new infections, hospitalizations and deaths. Right now, the numbers of new infections and hospitalizations are trending in the right direction, albeit still at a high enough level to warrant purple tier status. But USA is just in the beginning of the spread of the new SARS-CoV-2 variants with increased transmissibility, and we have two worrisome Californian variants, that we know very little about at this stage. See some summary information on variants here <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/scientific-brief-emerging-variants.html> It is important to acknowledge that trending well could change abruptly and quickly, as recent experiences in Southern California and Great Britain have borne witness to. Vigilance is well justified, and not a sign of pathology.

Thank you for your attention,
Ivanka Dilova, Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Monica Roque

From: Emilia [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 9:01 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment for 02/04/2021 Board Meeting

Categories: Orange category

DJUSD Board Members,

Please follow the science and the recommendations of our health officials and open our schools now to in-person learning, while protecting our teachers and our community.

It appears that the board and our community would greatly benefit from an update briefing from our county health officials on the current body of science on COVID-19 and in-person education. There is increasing evidence that K-6 students can safely return to campus, and that in-school transmission is infrequent. As you are well aware, conditions and information is changing quickly and you as a board and need to be proactive and not reactive in this critical process. Please provide a briefing by our Yolo County Health Officer at your next board meeting.

Additionally, please identify the organization that prioritizes the health, mental well-being, and the education needs of our students that regularly briefs you on the return to campus process. The teacher union prioritizes the interest of its teachers – and we certainly must protect our teachers and ensure their voices are heard. But who do you hear from that prioritizes the interests of our children? Please provide updates from this organization at your board meetings.

Finally, vaccination data appears to be a key metric under the current return to campus process. Where is the information on the number of teachers that have been vaccinated in our district to date? What initiatives have you engaged in with Yolo County to advance prioritization of teacher vaccination? Please provide a summary of your efforts, and the data on teacher vaccinations and your next board meeting.

In summary, at your next board meeting, please provide the following:

1. Yolo County Health Officer briefing on the current body of science on COVID-19 and in-person education.
2. Identify an organization that prioritizes health, mental well-being, and the education needs of students that advises you on a regular basis.

3. Number of district teachers that have been vaccinated to date.
4. Summary of efforts and engagement with Yolo county to advance prioritization of teacher vaccination.

We are all in this together,

DJUSD Parent

Monica Roque

From: Adrienne Richey [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 8:23 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Orange category

My child is a 1st grader in a Davis public school. Since my husband and I both work and our daughter is only 6 with ADHD, having her home with us doing distance learning is a nonstarter. I'm pleased it works for some families, but none of us would get anything done. She has been in Catalyst since March (we never took her out) so the risk of transmitting the virus has only been shifted from unionized teachers to lower-paid child care workers. In fact, our site supervisor was given a pay cut due to the lower enrollment. It is patently unfair to me to have let the nannies, Davis Kids Klub, and Catalyst employees take up the slack and take on all the risk, all the while not being prioritized for the vaccine, while the school board dithers. In that time they have had one exposure and closed the location for 2 weeks which is not that bad for an entire year. We are renters so in a sense free agents next fall. If the School Board doesn't make a plan to bring back elementary students in person, we will go to a district that has. I've always been an advocate for public schools, but would even consider private at this point since if my child were still in preschool it would be private anyway. It's a shame that I looked forward to the Davis "good school district" and now I'm looking for a way out so I can make sure my very active child does not fall behind just because she can't learn to read on a screen

Sincerely,
Adrienne Richey

Monica Roque

From: Ellyn Landreth
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 8:09 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Orange category

Dear Davis School Board,

I am writing you as both a teacher and a parent in the district. As a teacher, I want to commend the School Board and the District for their hard work, dedication, and support during this very challenging time. I appreciate that you are looking at both the current situation and the future of education in our district, by making the safety of teachers, staff, and all district employees a priority. Last week an infographic was put out by the district that clearly showed what things were under the control of the district and what fell under County and State governance. I found that to be very helpful as both a teacher and parent in understanding the situation and the timeframe we are in to move forward. I would like to praise the Board and District for putting this information together in this format. There has been a great deal of uncertainty and fear regarding the re-opening process, this type of clear communication of information helped bring sense to the complicated issues of reopening. Thank you.

This is my first time directly communicating with the Board my thoughts about the re-opening, however, I like most of my co-teachers have been in regular communication with our union representatives regarding our concerns. It was brought to my attention that there is a false belief being circulated in the community that the Union leadership is inaccurately representing the majority of DTA members regarding the re-opening process. This is not the case, the information that the DTA has shared with you regarding our concerns has been accurate. As in all organizations there many differing opinions in DTA, however, as the DTA poll data shows the vast majority of teachers are in support of a slow and thoughtful re-opening process that takes into consideration the health and well-being of all. The agreement between DTA and the District regarding the timeline of the re-opening being based on the vaccination of staff is supported by the majority of DTA members.

As a parent of two children in the district I want to applaud the Administration, Counselors, Teachers, and Staff at Patwin Elementary and Emerson Junior High. The support, care, kindness, and love that has been given to my children during this time has been amazing. I especially, want to thank the Patwin team who has helped our family navigate this time for a child with a health condition and IEP. Your professionalism, kindness. and love have really helped my child grow in confidence and self-esteem, for this I will be forever grateful.

Thank you for your time and energy,
Ellyn Landreth

"Ms.L " Ellyn Landreth
Davis Senior High School

Special Education Teacher

Pronouns: she/her



Please note, phone calls & emails will be returned during school hours.

"Be the change you wish to see in this world." --Gandhi

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Monica Roque

From: Hayes, Hogan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 2:03 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment - Request for a report of progress towards reopening schools

Categories: Orange category

To the Davis Joint Unified School District Board of Education:

As the parents of two children in the DJUSD, we are writing to urge the Board of Education (BoE) to take immediate demonstratable actions in an effort to prepare schools for a safe return to full in-person teaching. Our expectation is that the BoE will be able to quickly move past the presentation of plans and opening criteria, and that you will now begin to present regular progress reports on the concrete steps being taken to meet the standards for a safe reopening.

Eleven months after the initial move to virtual learning, we are all well past the time for presenting plans. We need to see progress. So, we are asking for evidence of your progress.

The Davis community needs to see reports from principles of each school that show classroom layouts, timetables for staggered entry, new schedules for reduced capacity lunchtimes, inventories of masks and hand sanitizer, staffing schedules for teacher assistants and aides, one-way entry/exit routes, and other recommended safe practices.

If the BoE has requested these kinds of reports from principles, please make those requests public so the community can see what kind of support and guidance you have offered administrators. Please also share the timelines for principles to report back to the BoE. We need to see the work you are doing because, without that, we are under the impression that you have done nothing to make our schools safe.

If the BoE has not prompted schools to report on the steps they are taking to open safely, then you have been negligent in your duties to support the mission of the DJUSD, specifically the commitment to “optimal conditions and environments for all students to learn.”

It is a serious problem that we have to request this kind of transparency from our own BoE. This failure to lead is creating a rift in our community. Parents who expect students to return to the classroom believe the District is actively working against a return to in-person learning, despite calls for a return from health experts at the local, state, and national levels. Parents who are nervous about a return have not seen any effort to make schools safe, and they are using that lack of action to harden their stance against a return. Teachers, seeing the lack of action, do not believe the District will create a safe work environment. Meanwhile, our students are not getting the level of education the District has committed to providing – an education that will “ignite a love of learning and equip each student with the knowledge, skills, character, and well-being to thrive and contribute to an evolving and increasingly-connected world.”

We expect the BoE to make available clear evidence of the progress they have made. Please name a set of benchmarks and provide a list of actions that have been taken to meet each benchmark as well as the plans for the next steps. Communicating this kind of plan in a crisis is not easy, but it is exactly what you signed up for when you ran for the Board. Please do your jobs.

Sincerely,

Dora & Hogan Hayes (CCE parents)

[Hogan Hayes](#), Ph.D

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

Monica Roque

From: Angela Schouten [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 11:41 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Orange category

We are still at a standstill. Why?

The CDC, Governor Newsom, AAP, Dr. Fauci, Dr. Sisson. All these experts have clearly stated it is reasonable and safe to reopen schools right now. Today. Thousands of school districts across America are making this work. And yet you have not. Why?

You have stated that you are serving special Ed students on campus. And yet you currently have only ONE cohort at the high school with many students stuck on waiting lists. They aren't receiving services you are obligated to provide. Why?

The risks to children who are limited to remote learning are high. Rates of depression, suicide, anxiety, and drug abuse are up, and declines in overall mental health are precipitous. The loss of learning is unmeasurable. Inequities have become greater. And yet these factors, these risks, are never taken into account during your discussions. Why?

When you took this role, you committed to serve the families of this district. We don't have a union. You are our voice. Why aren't you advocating for our children? Why?

We await your answers.

[Child Psychiatrists Warn That The Pandemic May Be Driving Up Kids' Suicide Risk](#)





Child Psychiatrists Warn That The Pandemic May Be Driving Up Kids' Suicide Risk

A cluster of suicides in Las Vegas, plus a troubling rise in youth suicide attempts observed in ERs nationwide, is raising fears that the pandemic is fueling a children's mental health crisis.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Monica Roque

From: Aron Bruhn [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 10:26 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Regarding re-opening plans

Categories: Orange category

Rather than follow guidelines put out by experts at the CDC or by the California Department of Public Health, it seems that the board has decided to make its own standard as to when it is safe to reopen schools. But without a deep background in public health and science, the board has no justification for doing so. The CDC and the CDPH have both set evidence-based guidelines which take into account the health of the students *and* the teachers. The DJUSD board should follow these guidelines, rather than create its own. After four years of watching national leaders scorn science, it is dispiriting to see this same disdain exhibited within the DJUSD.

It is not too late, however, to regain some lost ground. Follow the guidelines now. If the educators are not satisfied to follow the recommendations of public health experts--which make clear that it is possible and, indeed, preferred to open schools when community rates are sufficiently low--then let the burden rest with them to explain to the kids, the parents, and the tax-payers why they won't go back to school.

I grew up in Davis, attended its public schools and university, and looked forward to raising kids in the same schools. However, I have never felt such disappointment and mistrust of leadership at DJUSD and, sadly, I know I am not alone. DJUSD is at a crisis point in their standing in the community. I see social media sites are filled with friends and acquaintances shouting into the wind and not being heard by the board. Our children need an advocate at the table and their school board is abdicating its responsibility to them under the guidance of fear and powerful unions.

Davis has a lower test positivity rate than the rest of Yolo county, and has access to Healthy Davis Together, where kids and teachers can get bi-weekly testing. Few cities in the nation are so well prepared to open, and yet the only schools open in Davis are private schools, not subject to DJUSD's arbitrary interpretation of what is safe.

Teachers, deserved or not, will suffer from this too. Davis public schools, so long held in high esteem, are being tarnished as these inequities grow. I worry there will be no hope of passing further taxes to support our schools after the feeling of abandonment felt by so many families.

Sincerely,
Aron Bruhn, M.D.

Monica Roque

From: Simon Crownshaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:40 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment - Get Kids Back in School

Categories: Orange category

DJUSD

More research and evidence has been presented in the past two weeks that schools can open safely, including the last 24 hours. In addition, per the state we have met the threshold to return just not the crazy standards specified by yourselves. However I am not convinced you are truly interested in getting children back into the classroom. The teachers have a union, and we the parents have you the board. Stop protecting the teachers, move to open schools and let them strike if they won't return. As a board you continue to let perfect be the enemy of good enough.

You continue to fail this community except for Trustee Hyder, who has at least listened to our community health leaders. At this point I can only think your goal is to run out the clock, avoid conflict with the teachers, come up with impossible plans, keep schools closed and fail children. Congratulations.

Simon Crownshaw

Monica Roque

From: Arun and Swapna [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:04 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Orange category

Dear Board of Education,

Thank you for the time and effort spent on one of the most difficult topics we have faced in many years. We are the parents of two children in kindergarten and second grade at Pioneer Elementary. My wife and I are quite involved in our children's school, Swapna is the PTA Secretary for Pioneer Elementary as well as a Site Council Member. We have loved this community and are eager to participate for years to come. But, we have major concerns about the future and long-term damage to our children by continuing in virtual learning. We have watched our children become more withdrawn and bored, and they often loathe getting onto "school". As a pediatrician, I have seen the deleterious effects that virtual learning has had on my patients. I have seen patients develop depression, anxiety, and massive weight gain, just to name a few issues. These problems could become permanent if we do not act quickly and reassure parents that the future will be bright.

The criteria the District has laid out are reasonable in our opinion, but once they are met we hope to swiftly and safely continue to move forward toward normal in-person education. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the CDC, the President, so many have said that schools must open as soon as possible. We have all been adapting to the continually changing circumstances of our current situation. However, we feel that the Board has been slow to even plan for the reopening of schools, and we are concerned for what that means for the remainder of this school year and for the fall. To be frank, if schools do not open once the parameters set by DJUSD are met, we will have to seek other options for our children's education in the fall, and it seems many in our community are already doing so. While it is difficult to predict what the future holds, especially in these times, we need the reassurance that the District is moving towards a full and safe re-opening of schools in the fall. Without such an announcement, more and more families with means will leave our public school system, a move that would be detrimental to our schools and our community overall in the long run. These are our dire circumstances, and we understand the concerns that teachers have regarding vaccinations. But as soon as the criteria are met, we must open, stay open, and plan to fully re-open for the fall. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the CDC, the President, so many have said that schools must open as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Arun and Swapna Panigrahi

Monica Roque

From: Carin Pilon
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 6:25 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: John Bowes; Dianna Huculak
Subject: LETTER for PUBLIC COMMENT - Board Meeting 2 - 4 - 2021
Attachments: LETTER to BOE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT 2-4-2021 from Carin Pilon, DSHS.pdf
Categories: Orange category

Dear Members of the Board:

As a teacher with 15 years in the district, the past 8 as an English teacher at Davis Senior High, I miss being at school. I miss the scores of students I'd see every day; I miss their voices as they'd ask questions and share ideas. I miss the bustle of kids coming through my door, the talk and laughter of dozens of teens on their way to their next class. I miss the rhythms of the school year and the privilege of witnessing countless 'a-ha!' moments of student learning.

I also know how much our students miss being at school, spending time with their friends, participating in activities, and working more closely with teachers. My heart lifts when students tell me of the benefits they've discovered this year -- more time to sleep, to be with family, to dial back the stress. But many have suffered greatly during these long months of limitations. As a teacher, I do what I can to accommodate their widely varying circumstances, to reassure and offer my support, not just to the students but also to their parents.

As a parent of 4 Davis High grads, I know what it is to live with teens. I know how hard it is when they're suffering and how important it is to provide them with a sense of security and stability: to make sure they know that they're loved, that they're not alone, that they're safe.

Stability matters. And right now we can offer our students a sense of stability by continuing with our current system of distance learning and not pushing forward into another great unknown.

It's taken months of intensely hard work, training, practice, patience, and persistence, but here, in early February, at the start of our second semester, we have at last achieved a delicate stability.

We've learned how to negotiate Canvas and Zoom. Our students have adjusted to the individual practices of their teachers, and we've learned more about our individual students and the different 'character' of each class. Distance Learning continues to be harder than anything I have ever done in my three decades as a teacher, but I believe that the great majority of us -- teachers and students -- have found some degree of comfort within the tent of our current normal. It's a tent. It's temporary, but right now, it's also home -- and we know where things go.

At this point in the year, the gyrations involved with returning to school -- even should conditions allow -- would mean pulling up the stakes on what's become familiar and heading back into a blizzard of change, with at best a sketch to guide us.

We have no idea what 'going back to school' will really look like. More significantly, we have no real idea how safe 'going back to school' will be.

'Going back to school' sounds great. But none of us gets to walk back into the school we left last March, unlock the door to our classroom, put the desks back the way we like them, pull out the old plans, and go back to the way things were.

No, the logistics will be staggering -- and time consuming -- and emotionally wrenching for staff, for students, and for families as we go through yet another major transition for what, at this point, can only be a limited period of time. That's not good for kids. That's not good for any of us.

I urge the board to allow us to continue this year with the stability we have worked so hard to achieve. Instead of squandering hours of time and emotion on plans that may never be implemented this spring for reasons beyond our control, let's turn our attention to how we'll welcome back students in the fall; to how we'll introduce and reorient students and ourselves to our sites, and to how we can incorporate the good lessons and tools we've gained from this year apart.

Let's start now to focus on the fall and give THAT transition the time and attention it requires to make sure that we'll be ready.

Respectfully,

Carin Little Pilon

English Teacher

Davis Senior High School

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Monica Roque

From: Janice Brehler [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 6:03 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; Superintendent
Subject: Public Comment for Thursday Feb 4th BOE Meeting

Categories: Orange category

Dear Esteemed Board Members and Superintendent Bowes,

Thank you for being brave and going back to the drawing board to create a hybrid model that my family and I feel will keep the community safe when returning to the classrooms.

Giving all teachers who want the opportunity to be vaccinated, the community in the Red Tier or better, and the proposed Elementary Hybrid Model option that has been presented, are criteria that assures me I can return safely to the classroom with my students, and that my daughter who is a 6th-grader at Birch Lane, can return safely in person as well and will not risk our family's safety and health.

Importantly, the model allows for the flexibility of outdoor education and small group sizes that maintain protective social distances. These elements are important to protect the health and lives of teachers, students, and their families.

I suggest that the plan and the Trustees' approval include specific language supporting teachers and staff if students do not follow the safety guidelines after training and reminders. Students can still transmit the virus and even with a vaccine for the adults, we need to make sure expectations are clearly communicated to families to wear masks, maintain social distances, and wash hands. These protocols are critical to keeping ALL families safe, and teachers and staff should be supported in following these protocols.

Thank you again.
Sincerely,
Janice Brehler
DJUSD Teacher and Parent

Monica Roque

From: Heather Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 5:00 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment- 2/4/21 Elementary Hybrid Model & Return to Campus planning

Categories: Orange category

BOE trustees and DJUSD leaders,

I love DJUSD- our schools, programs, teachers and staff. I've been proud to be a part of this district since 2012 when my son entered kindergarten. Yet, I am disappointed in the BOE and DJUSD administrations progress toward reopening and decisions regarding criteria for re-opening.

In summary:

- Please rescind and modify your motion for criteria to re-open based on scientific facts, public health recommendations, and not fears or political pressure from labor partners.
- Please adopt the elementary hybrid model proposed in January over the model listed on the 2/4/21 agenda.

The scientific data is very clear that unvaccinated masked teachers in classrooms with unvaccinated masked students following safety protocols (hand hygiene, distancing when able, etc) is safe and DOES NOT increase covid transmission risk for teachers, students or the community at large. This has been recommended by the CDC, WHO, State of CA and Yolo County Public Health officials yet DJUSD had not followed this advice.

Children are suffering loss of learning, mental health consequences, and increased risks of suicide and self-harm behaviors. Not to mention a general lack of interest in the joys of learning. Children with special education needs or facing poverty/homelessness are particularly vulnerable. Yet in January this very board dismissed the recommendations of Dr. Sisson (Yolo County Public Health) and moved to adopt opening criteria that are not necessary to maintain covid safety at school- causing further delay for in-person education.

Why? Please dig deep in your hearts and reflect on that? The kids have no voice at the bargaining table. We as the grown-ups in the room are here- hired or elected- to lead on their behalf. Don't delay in-person education any longer. It is time to re-open Davis schools now.

I love our teachers and want for EVERYONE to be vaccinated. They are in tier 1b yet vaccine supply simply isn't available to vaccinate them and all the high-risk seniors 65 and older fast enough. It is medically unethical to have teachers jump the line ahead of high-risk groups so they feel more comfortable being in the classroom. The fact is that they are SAFE to be in classrooms, unvaccinated, while masked now. You as leaders are NOT putting them in harms way by sending them into the classroom unvaccinated if PPE and campus safety rules/procedures are in place. The CDC stated this today (2/3/21)- Vaccinating teachers is not a requirement for in-person learning. You are however putting children in harms way asking them to wait for teacher vaccinations for in-person learning.

Additionally, we are so fortunate to have Healthy Davis Together for asymptomatic testing. But- asymptomatic testing, while nice, is also NOT a requirement for safe in-person learning. Schools operating on waivers have been operating WITHOUT this for months- during the purple tier and all. Again- why are you making re-opening criteria more difficult for our public school children than the waiver schools? Why are you making it harder to re-open when we can re-open safely now?

Yesterday Yolo County met the state criteria of being 5 days in the <25 cases/100K threshold for re-opening K-6 schools. DJUSD K-6 schools could be open safely TODAY.

You falsely state that re-opening criteria is outside of your control. We meet state public health requirements today!

Please rescind your motion on re-opening criteria as it stands. Align with our Yolo County Public Health/State recommendations. Remove the teacher vaccination requirement and on-site testing requirement, and 2 weeks in red tier requirements. These can be goals to work toward and continue your progress on but they are not requirements backed by scientific facts as necessary for safe in-person education. Don't make children suffer any longer.

Additionally, the elementary hybrid model presented in the January BOE meeting was far superior to the model being presented in your 2/4/21 agenda. It gave children a consistent morning routine and allowed working parents a legitimate chance to support their kids in this hybrid model. The model under review for 2/4/21 with 1pm in-person education is NOT feasible for the working parent. Many of whom can't leave work to drop off kids at 1pm. If you looked at facts and science, full in-person learning in K-6 can take place now and you don't need a hybrid model. But if a hybrid model is adopted the January model was more sustainable for families.

We are looking to you as leaders to make fact-based decisions in the best interest of the children DJUSD is here to serve. A failure to do so will erode public trust in your abilities and I fear have long-term negative consequences on the future for our district enrollment, voting in support of funding measures, and re-election efforts.

It is time for leaders and teachers to do the right thing and open Davis schools.

Heather Martin, PharmD, CDE
Parent- Cesar Chavez Elementary, Emerson Junior High
Davis, CA 95616



Monica Roque

From: Sue Viguie
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 2:50 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment, Feb. 4

Categories: Orange category

Thank you board members for your work for all our students! I am so looking forward to the time we can safely be back with students face to face. In looking at the new proposal for the "Elementary Hybrid Model" I see that it does provide for students to have the same teacher, or teachers, that they currently have, at least in the morning. As I look at this model, I think about my day and my students. The only way I can be sure that all students are getting equitable instruction is to have instruction during the distance learning time for all three groups. In person time can be re-teaching, support and extension of lessons that have already happened. This model limits time available for the Distance Learning only group (group C) to receive support and extensions unless we send groups A and B to asynchronous time before the end of the morning. No hybrid model will have as many teacher/student synchronous minutes as the Distance Learning model we are implementing right now. I am glad we are planning for a potential hybrid model. I support doing what is best for all our kids and safe for our community.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sue Viguie

6th grade teacher

Pioneer Elementary

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Monica Roque

From: Cassie Spalding [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:00 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment for meeting 2/4

Categories: Orange category

Hello,

I would like to thank the school district for taking such a thoughtful approach to school reentry for our community. I greatly appreciate your outlined criteria to be met before in person schooling can begin. These criteria, especially that all in person teachers receive both doses of the vaccine before returning, are incredibly helpful in doing everything we can to prevent the loss of a teacher due to a potential coronavirus outbreak in our schools. As a physician, I am keenly aware of the impact of coronavirus on individuals and the stark reality of losing a colleague, family member or friend to this disease. It is not something I want any of our district teachers, staff or family to have to endure. And while children are generally less affected by coronavirus, there is still a chance of them becoming critically ill or dying from it. Rushing to return before all appropriate safety measures have been put in place is not worth the risk of losing a teacher or student. As a parent, I too am struggling with the challenges of supporting my 3 Elementary aged children in distance learning, while taking care of my own responsibilities at work, and working from home as much as I am able. I also want to add that consistency is so important for younger elementary aged children, and having to change teachers 2/3 of the way through the school year is very unsettling for them. Also, going back too early makes it likely that there would be a rebound closure if a new outbreak were to develop in the community. It would be much harder for my children to start back in person, but then have to return to distance learning a few weeks later. I long for the day we can all return to in person activities without fear of contracting or spreading this deadly virus, and I am grateful to the school board, the superintendent and the district for their appropriately cautious approach to this. Thank you for working so hard to address this challenge for our community.

Sincerely,

Cassie Dias

Cesar Chavez parent

Sent from my iPhone

Monica Roque

From: Public Comment [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 10:20 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment (Item VII c)

Categories: Orange category

Dear Trustees,

I ask that you re-evaluate the criteria for resuming in-person education for the elementary grades, especially in grades TK through 2. A one-size-fits-all approach to reopening schools does not recognize varying considerations between different grade levels, and ignores the disproportionate harm distance learning has on younger children.

It will likely take at least another two months before Yolo County's adjusted case rate falls from the current level of 25 per 100,000 to below 7, which would qualify Yolo County for the red tier. It will likely take even longer for all teachers and staff in the district to be given the opportunity to receive all necessary doses of a vaccine. With the criteria you set last month, public schools in Davis will not reopen this school year.

Rather than applying the same reopening criteria uniformly across the board, you should tailor the criteria to address the pressing needs of younger and special needs children. This week, the State formally authorized elementary schools in Yolo County to open, thanks to the hard work of our community to get the adjusted case rate below 25 per 100,000. The Yolo County Health Officer has advised you that elementary schools can reopen. President Biden thinks schools should reopen. However, even though every other level of government thinks elementary schools should reopen under the conditions as they currently exist in Davis, you, as the trustees of the Board of Education, are the sole decision-makers on when it happens in our community.

I won't discount that there are risks associated with in-person education. But you have failed to weigh the risks of reopening with the harm caused by keeping schools closed. Sometimes, we as a society allow activities to continue during a pandemic, because the benefits significantly outweigh the risks. This is why a classroom of 15 first-graders is something worthwhile right now, when a party of 15 friends at your house is not.

There is no legal obstacle to reopening elementary schools now. Did you hear that? There is no legal obstacle to reopening elementary schools now. The only thing standing in our children's way is an unwillingness to act. You still have an opportunity to reopen elementary students with the option for continued distance learning and give younger students meaningful in-person educational opportunities this academic year. Please do not make elementary school students wait until August to see the inside of a classroom again.

Sincerely,
Parents of a Birch Lane First Grader

Monica Roque

From: Rachel Klein [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 12:15 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT

Categories: Orange category

The following is for public comment at the school board meeting on Feb 4:

Dear members of the Board,

My name is Rachel Klein and I am an adjunct professor, a scientist, and a mother of a kindergartener. I am writing to ask you to open schools now. It is safe and absolutely essential for the education of our children. I am currently teaching at Woodland Community College in a face-to-face format, as are the majority of my colleagues in the biology department. We are all scientists with PhDs or MDs and we strongly believe that teaching in person can be made safe and that schools at all levels should be open now.

Some of the professors teaching in-person are much older than I am, some have health conditions. None of us have the vaccine yet, although we will be happy to get it when it is our turn. We don't have fancy ventilation systems, we open the doors to draw air through. We wear masks, we've divided the students into cohorts, and implemented social distancing measures including modifying labs so students can have individual materials.

The data says the risk of transmission in schools is extremely low and can be made even lower with mitigation measures like ours. The benefits to students of in-person instruction are enormous.

I ask you to also consider the socio-economic impacts of schools being closed. When students can't be in the classroom, parents have to pay for childcare, and we increase the burden for working class families. We should also not forget that this childcare *is* occurring in the same public-school buildings that are too unsafe for teachers.

I think it's also hard to understand how bad online kindergarten is unless you are living it. My son's teacher has had connection issues on 10 of the last 14 days- on a bad day recently there was only 5 minutes of meaningful teaching. As parents, we have been asked to "work on" pretty much every aspect of the curriculum with our kids, meaning most of the teaching is being done by parents, because kids this age just cannot learn from a screen. It breaks my heart to see how much my son and his friends hate school and dread having to log onto zoom every morning.

This is not a situation that any of us chose, but I want to point out that an entire biology department believes so strongly that it is safe and imperative to open schools for in-person instruction that we are teaching in-person ourselves. I am disappointed that my son's teacher and other teachers in this district with less expertise in the matter do not feel the same way.

Sincerely,

Rachel Klein, PhD.

Monica Roque

From: mark diel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 8:33 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment - Agenda Item VII.c

Categories: Orange category

Dear School Board Trustees,

I fully support the trustees' decision to make sure that our teachers and staff are vaccinated before hybrid or in-person instruction resumes. Governor Newsom said last week, "If everybody has to be vaccinated, we might as well just tell people the truth: there will be no in-person instruction in the state of California (this academic year). Just tell them the truth. Don't mislead people." While I do not agree with his sentiment that we should put teachers and staff at risk in order to fast track in-person teaching this year, I do believe it is time to be honest with each other and plan for schools reopening for in-person instruction this Fall.

I will be the first to acknowledge how challenging this move to distance learning has been on students, families, teachers, staff and administrators. However, returning before our teachers and staff are vaccinated would be far worse. My mother and father were DJUSD teachers, my wife works for the district, I worked at Pioneer and am a DHS graduate, and my son goes to DHS. My daughter, a recent DHS graduate, is distance learning from home at UC Santa Cruz for the remainder of this academic year. Our family is committed to our schools and truly appreciates the unwavering commitment our teachers, staff, and administrators give to our kids every day. Many parents live in Davis because of the safe and nurturing educational environment they create for our children. This love of our schools is the driving force behind the demand for in-person learning by a small and vocal group of parents, but it is misguided.

I am grateful for your commitment to the safety and well-being of our educators and for setting staff vaccination as a condition of return to in-person instruction. COVID-19 has a fatality rate for adults of approximately 3%. The long-term health effects are estimated at closer to 20% and are still being determined. Please do not waiver in your support for the safety of our students, teachers, and staff.

Instead, we should accept the advice of Governor Newsom by committing to distance learning this academic year and plan on returning to in-person school this Fall. The right decision is clear even though it is difficult. It is time to focus our resources on continuing to provide the best distance learning experience possible for the remainder of this academic year and allow our educators to plan for Fall 2021.

Sincerely,

Mark Diel, MPH

Monica Roque

From: Sarah Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 5:58 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment Please read aloud at the next board meeting

Categories: Orange category

Hello,

I appreciate all the work you are doing trying to serve our students. Education is always hard, and COVID 19 has made it even harder. I know you are all passionate about our students, and I thank you for your work.

Please continue to stand strong in your caution about reopening. Please keep the focus on safety for our amazing teachers and staff as well as our students. There is still a huge risk of COVID outbreak that could rip through our community. Continuing distance learning will allow vaccine roll out to provide a safe opportunity for opening.

I've recently started Contact Tracing, and almost every day I have children exposed at their childcare center in my call list. I can't imagine how many more calls I'd be getting with K-12 schools open.

Thank You,
Sarah

Monica Roque

From: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: RE: Public Comment: Parent Survey: On-Campus Activities

From: Luis Rios [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 3:57 PM
To: Board Members <boardmembers@djUSD.net>; John Bowes <jbowes@djUSD.net>; DJUSD Communications <communications@djUSD.net>
Subject: Public Comment: Parent Survey: On-Campus Activities

Hi DJUSD Staff:

Was the survey also sent to Spanish speaking parents? I just hope Spanish translation services are in place for equity purposes.

I sense a rush to judgement considering a survey by 1/31. Please take time to plan wisely. My input.

Thank you. Gracias. Public comment (comentario publico).

Luis Rios
Davis parent and Spanish language advocate for Spanish speaking parents in Davis public schools

From: Davis Joint Unified <communications@djUSD.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 3:39 PM
To: Luis Rios
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Parent Survey: On-Campus Activities

Monica Roque

From: Deborah Halberstadt [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 7:22 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: school reopening comments
Attachments: school reopening DJUSD BOE.docx

Categories: Orange category

To the Davis Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees:

Attached please find our strong and urgent request that, as you consider reopening schools, you incorporate a) outdoor learning and b) adequate indoor ventilation.

Thank you.
Deborah Halberstadt

Davis Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees
President Joe DiNunzio
Vice President Tom Adams
Trustee Vigdis Amundson
Trustee Lea Darrah
Trustee Betsy Hyder

-VIA EMAIL-

January 27, 2021

Dear Trustees:

We are residents of Davis and have children in the Davis Joint Unified School District. As you consider reopening schools, we respectfully and urgently request that you incorporate a) outdoor learning and b) adequate indoor ventilation in order to protect teachers, students, and families.

A. Outdoor Learning

Contact tracing studies suggest that transmission risk of COVID-19 is twenty times higher in indoor settings compared to outdoor environments.¹ The majority of transmission occurs indoors. Frequent daily contact and engagement in group activities increases risk. Even with the new variant, it appears outdoor risk is relatively low, and certainly lower than prolonged, repeated exposure indoors.

Given the state of the science, it is bewildering that California as a state, and the Davis Joint Unified School District (DJUSD) in particular, have failed to integrate outdoor learning as an option for reopening schools. Davis has a temperate climate. Classes could easily move outdoors. Green Schoolyards and the National COVID-19 Outdoors Learning Network have ample resources and planning tools for schools to operate equitably and safely outdoors. (See <https://www.greenschoolyards.org/covid-learn-outside>)

Yet to date, California policies and guidance have entirely ignored outdoor learning. DJUSD has a multi-phase plan for reopening, yet nowhere does that plan mention outdoor learning. We request that outdoor learning be incorporated into statewide guidance for reopening, and that districts like DJUSD be strongly encouraged to adopt outdoor learning in order to facilitate a faster and safer reopening.

B. Indoor Ventilation

For indoor education, adequate ventilation is paramount. The coronavirus is spread through the air via transmission of aerosols. These contagious particles can remain suspended in the air for several hours. Contaminated surfaces are the least likely way to catch the virus.² The State and school districts must ensure that classrooms are properly ventilated, that all participants wear masks, and that class is

¹ Cevik et al, *Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV-2) Transmission Dynamics Should Inform Policy*, Clinical Infections Diseases, 2 Sept. 2020, <https://academic.oup.com/cid/advance-article/doi/10.1093/cid/ciaa1442/5910315>.

² <https://english.elpais.com/society/2020-10-28/a-room-a-bar-and-a-class-how-the-coronavirus-is-spread-through-the-air.html>

stopped after an hour in order to completely refresh the air. One study in Spain found, “If two hours are spent in the classroom with an infected teacher, without taking any measures to counter the number of aerosols, there is the risk that up to 12 students could become infected.”³ In contrast, “If the room is ventilated during the lesson, either with fresh air or mechanically, and the class is stopped after an hour in order to completely refresh the air, the risk drops dramatically.”⁴

Schools should increase the amount of outdoor air introduced into classrooms, for instance by increasing the volume of outside air exchanges per hour and using window-mounted box fans to draw in outside air. Filtration should also be increased, for instance through improved air filters and using portable air cleaners.

We must ensure that, to the extent classes are held in classrooms rather than outdoors, adequate ventilation is assured.

Thank you.

Deborah and Ari Halberstadt

³ <https://english.elpais.com/society/2020-10-28/a-room-a-bar-and-a-class-how-the-coronavirus-is-spread-through-the-air.html>

⁴ *Id.*

Monica Roque

From: Scott McCusker [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:23 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Orange category

To the members of the Davis Joint Unified School Board,

I am writing as a concerned parent and a practicing physician. I will keep this brief and to the point. We took our son out of the district kindergarten this fall because he wasn't able to have his special needs (autism) met. We are strongly considering taking our daughter out of the district second grade, because despite the best efforts of her excellent and highly qualified teacher, the services provided are not meeting her entirely normal social-emotional needs. The currently announced school reopening plans are inadequate and not in keeping with the state of the science. Our kids need to be back to in-person schooling immediately. This can be done safely with minimal disruptions, and is advocated by the CDC as described in the link below. Such reopenings have already taken place throughout the world, and throughout most of the surrounding school districts. I fully recognize the threat that COVID represents to our communities, and remain an outspoken advocate for mitigation measures for the disease. I personally participate in vaccination efforts. I'm doing what I can to navigate this pandemic safely. The Board needs to step up and get our kids back to in-person learning, immediately. I am absolutely in favor of safety measures to protect our children and the teachers and staff, such as better ventilation, social distancing, and use of masks. These measures need not get in the way of in-person education. There is no room for excuses or shifting goalposts as has been the course to date. Delays will only result in harm to all involved. Please do not hesitate to contact me if needed. Thank you.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2775875>

Sincerely,

Scott McCusker, MD

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--Scott McCusker

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--Scott McCusker

Monica Roque

From: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: RE: vaccine for children - public comment

From: Luis Rios [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 6:34 PM
To: Board Members <boardmembers@djUSD.net>; John Bowes <jbowes@djUSD.net>
Subject: vaccine for children - public comment

Dear Board and John,

My public comment is not to rush in reopening schools.

Children's health and safety are first priority, above all.

No covid-19 vaccine is yet available for children. Vaccine trials are still in progress. I believe.

Please make informed decisions based on health and safety guidelines during this pandemic.

Focus should be on making virtual learning more robust.

Thank you.

Luis Rios

Parent of two school-age children