



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

FW: please add this to the appropriate segment of the next board meeting

2 messages

Rich Moore <romoorej@comcast.net>

Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 2:24 PM

To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Cc: Ellen Dunder <ekdunder@gmail.com>, romoorej@comcast.net

Hello

We live at [6 Mt Palomar Ct](#), next door to Ellen and George Dunder. Ellen forwarded her recent email to me regarding the oak tree near the Lucas Valley Elementary soccer field. We are also concerned about this tree blocking views and being a fire hazard.

As Ellen relates, this tree was planted by a neighbor as a "volunteer" seeding that came up in their yard. I'm not sure if the school's permission was requested to plant the sapling. The tree remained small for a long time, but in recent years has "found its roots" and has grown into a large tree that now creates some issues.

We purchased our home 36 years ago mostly because we liked the back yard and the views of the hills. We have worked hard to orient our hardscaping to take advantage of these views. We have also been diligent to keep our own landscaping low so it would not obstruct our and our neighbors' views, removing several trees in our yard and trimming others to be only fence high. This tree now impacts a significant portion of our prior existing view. As you know, existing views are legally protected in Marin County.

We have also worked to remove fire-prone vegetation from near our house and done what local fire official have recommended to minimize fire risk to our home. As seniors, fire risk concerns us greatly. While this tree is not as much of a fire risk to us as it is to Ellen's house, we are concerned about upwind fuel loads and I regularly trim the school's tall grass that borders my wood fence (since the school does not).

I add our voices to Ellen and her husband in asking the school to allow us to remove this tree.

Thank you,

Richard and Susan Moore

[6 Mount Palomar Ct.](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ellen dunder** <ekdunder@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 10:14 AM

Subject: please add this to the appropriate segment of the next board meeting

To: <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Hi,

We live at [2 Mt Palomar Ct](#). Our property backs up to the Lucas Valley Elementary field. Approximately 20 years ago a person renting a home on our court planted 3 scrub oak trees on the bank of the then Dixie field so that their children could watch a tree grow. One of the three has died and the maintenance crew removed it. Two remain.

One is on the other side of our fence and as the canopy grows very near to our fence, and as it drops dry leaves it concerns us greatly to have a tree that close in an area where our local fire department has said "it's not if, it's when" there will be a fire on the hills. Twice the district has allowed me to have it trimmed at my own expense because it also blocks my view of the Lucas Valley hills.

We would respectfully like to get your permission to have it removed at our expense. I would prefer not to have to keep paying to trim it. At this point it is a fire concern to us, and since it was placed there when it shouldn't have been, we are hoping that it can be removed. Last year it actually looked like it was dying when about 3/4 of the leaves turned brown and were curled and dry. When it does that as it has done in the past, it is even more worrisome. I've queried some of the neighbors and they understand our concern and don't have a problem with the removal.

Thank you for your consideration concerning this matter.

George and Ellen Dunder

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

To: romoorej@comcast.net

Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 2:25 PM

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

With regards to agenda item 5.1

2 messages

Kate Byrnes <kateabyrnes@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 3:12 PM

I have advanced Parkinson's disease, and my husband is asthmatic and has diabetes. We can't be exposed to Covid 19 as, to put it mildly, we are compromised. And I fear that my daughter Tara Costello could be exposed if she returns to teaching in person, then infecting us. If either of us goes to the hospital, we wouldn't get out.

It's not worth the risk. Our children need to be with their teachers yes. I taught for almost 40 years with MCOE, becoming a California Teacher of the Year in 1995. I believe in that sacred student/teacher connection, that powerful bond. Children belong in their classrooms yes. But not yet, it isn't safe

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: kateabyrnes@gmail.com

Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 3:12 PM

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Public Comment for 10/13/2020 MCSD Board Meeting

2 messages

Rachel Zwillinger <rachel.zwillinger@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 9:44 PM

Public Comment Regarding Agenda Item 5.1

--

Good evening and thank you for taking the time to hear public comments.

I wanted to convey my sincere thanks for the steps the District is taking to get our children safely back into classrooms.

The safety measures our elementary school is implementing are impressive and give us confidence that the school is prioritizing safety and doing what it can to avoid and minimize transmission. We were particularly pleased to see the emphasis on mask wearing for all students and staff. In a situation with no perfect solutions, we believe the District is going above and beyond to create an environment where the whole school community can thrive.

We are eager to return to the classroom because remote learning has been a major struggle for our family. With only one hour of live instruction each day, the demands on working parents are unmanageable and our child's opportunities for learning and growth are exceedingly limited. Watching our first grader lose his enthusiasm for school has been upsetting, and we do not see how he can learn to read and master other basic skills with so little instruction.

We felt great relief upon learning of our return date last week and look forward to moving into this next chapter.

Thank you for your thoughtful approach, for prioritizing science, and for doing all you can to get our children the educational and social support they need.

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: rachel.zwillinger@gmail.com

Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 9:44 PM

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Public Comment for 10/13/2020 MCSD Board Meeting

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To: rachel.zwillinger@gmail.com

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Board Meeting 10-13

2 messages

Greg Cunha <greg.cunha05@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 3:29 PM

Reopening Schools Agenda 5.1:

To the Board of Trustees

As a parent of 2 children at LVE, I first want to say how impressed I am with their teachers. They have done amazing jobs teaching remotely and under the current circumstances.

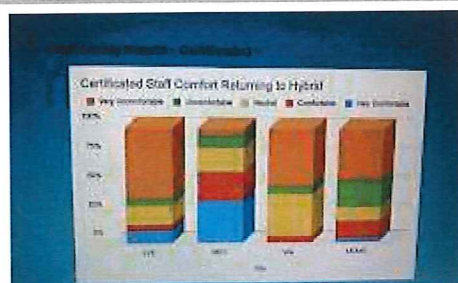
We all believe that the safety and health of our students, teachers, and extended families (ie grandparents, etc) are the most important issues during this unprecedented time. The plan to introduce in-person learning over the next month seems to be too early and a mistake with the holiday season around the corner. We are seeing schools closing down in NY and all over the country.

I am concerned that some of our amazing teachers (that our community and children have grown connected to) will take leave if forced back into the classroom. It has been brought to my attention, and as included on the agenda, that 75% of the LVE teachers are either very uncomfortable or uncomfortable to return to in-person instruction. As per the attached chart, Vallecito has approx 65% of teachers, and Miller Creek has 75% that are very uncomfortable and uncomfortable.

What are the District's plans for the classes where teachers take leave? The obvious answer is long-term subs, but is there someone that is going to jump into those positions, and are they going to be anywhere near the quality or have the experience of our current teachers?

We are rushing to reopen and at what cost? Our teachers are doing a great job teaching remotely and the advantages of in-person teaching for 3 hours a day do not outway the risks.

Thank you for all that you do for the Miller Creek School District.



Cert Staff Comfort Returning to Hybrid.png
543K

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: greg.cunha05@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 3:29 PM

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MILLER CREEK

School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

For Agenda Item 5.1

2 messages

Whitten, Audrey <audrey_whitten@brown.edu>

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 6:11 PM

To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

In regards to reopening schools, I would like to ask the board to let each individual teacher choose whether they will return to in-person instruction. Not all teachers feel it is safe and for good reason. Testing teachers every other month is not enough. COVID will spread long before the district even knows it is within the community. Teachers have been told they can look into taking leave, but not all teachers can afford or have the option to take leave. You are asking these teachers to choose between their health and their economic stability. Do not ask teachers to make this choice. Let teachers choose if they would like to return.

Audrey Whitten, a concerned daughter of a Lucas Valley Elementary school teacher

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 6:11 PM

To: audrey_whitten@brown.edu

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Our kids, teachers, and staff are NOT DISPOSABLE

2 messages

Valerie Kodzoman <valeriekodzoman@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 3:25 PM

For Agenda item #2 to be read aloud. Miller Creek School District Board Meeting 10/13/2020

Dear Miller Creek School District Board-

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of 2 children who attend LVE.
Our kids, teachers, and staff are not disposable. This pandemic has rendered us with little options and many questions left unanswered.

It is my understanding that 75% of teachers at LVE are "very uncomfortable" with returning to Hybrid according to a recent survey. Going back to in person learning even in a phased hybrid model during a pandemic that has no "cure" and no "vaccine" yet is reckless and unnecessarily endangers lives. This is a lose-lose situation for all: the kids, teachers, parents, school, and district.

The options for teachers seems unfair; either teach or take an extended leave of absence. We are asking these teachers and staff to take huge risks with their own lives to come back to in person. Why not continue distance learning until it is truly deemed safe... until COVID-19 is cured, or there is a vaccine? Health and safety is a right that everyone should feel is top priority right now and sending our kids, teachers, and staff back to school in person too soon DOESN'T honor that. While I understand that many parents have to go back to work and may have situations that are not ideal right now, distance learning will continue to improve and we will make it work. It is NOT an option for the school district to lose anyone due to this deadly virus.

The hybrid model itself seems flawed. The kids will receive less hours of instruction from the teachers: 3 hours per day, 4 days a week and still be exposed to COVID-19 by going in person. Teachers are doing MORE work because they have to repeat the same lessons 2 times a day and also have to prepare for online learning lessons. Parents are also stretched and have to find ways to get their kids back and forth from school in the middle of the day and also support the online learning when the kids are not at school during the school days.

There is a lot we could do differently to make the teachers, kids and staff more comfortable with going back in person. This needs to be addressed immediately.

I propose we postpone the current schedule for hybrid and at minimum add a few weeks to each phase. I fear for the teachers, kids and staff.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

11/4/2020

Miller Creek School District Mail - Our kids, teachers, and staff are NOT DISPOSABLE

Valerie Kodzoman

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: valeriekodzoman@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 3:25 PM

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MILLER CREEK

School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

For Agenda Item 5.1

2 messages

Whitten, Audrey <audrey_whitten@brown.edu>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 6:11 PM

In regards to reopening schools, I would like to ask the board to let each individual teacher choose whether they will return to in-person instruction. Not all teachers feel it is safe and for good reason. Testing teachers every other month is not enough. COVID will spread long before the district even knows it is within the community. Teachers have been told they can look into taking leave, but not all teachers can afford or have the option to take leave. You are asking these teachers to choose between their health and their economic stability. Do not ask teachers to make this choice. Let teachers choose if they would like to return.

Audrey Whitten, a concerned daughter of a Lucas Valley Elementary school teacher

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: audrey_whitten@brown.edu

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 6:11 PM

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Reopening Miller Creek and the Hybrid Programs

2 messages

Anne Shaver <anneshaver6@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 7:08 PM

Dear Participants,

My name is Anne Shaver, and I am a third grade teacher at LVE.

I think it is a grave mistake reopening our schools at this juncture for the following reasons:

1. After phasing in a hybrid program in Boston City Public Schools and New York City Public Schools these districts saw a dramatic increases in Covid-19 cases among students and staff and reopening plans had to be ceased.
2. A study of hundreds of thousands of children in India, concluded that children are super spreaders of the disease. Judy Guzman-Cottrill, a pediatric infectious disease professor at Oregon Health and Science University who wasn't involved in the India study, says this study is significant because it was so large, involving hundreds of thousands of children. "First, this is a study that shows that children do indeed spread the virus to other children," she says. This will have major implications for kids returning to classrooms, to sports and to other activities where kids tend to be in close contact to each other."

Source: NPR 10/1/2020

3. Given that there are so many unknowns regarding Covid-19 including long term health problems in children and adults it is presumptuous and dangerous to reopen at this time.
4. I strongly urge the board to offer a third option which is to maintain the status quo until more is known about Covid-19, and allow virtual learning to continue until scientists have a better understanding of this disease and adequate prevention measures that can stop the progression of Covid-19.
5. If one child or staff member develops a serious case of Covid-19 with long term adverse health affects such as lung scaring which can cause lifelong breathing difficulties or death, it is unconscionable because there are other effective methods to educate our students without putting anyone's health at risk.
6. While parents were able to opt into virtual learning this past summer, we now have even more compelling research and information regarding the adverse health issues created by Covid-19 than was available 2 months ago. Information relating to Covid-19 is updated daily. This is a very fluid situation.
7. Please offer an option to continue virtual learning for all students and staff. IT is the RIGHT thing to do.

11/6/2020

Miller Creek School District Mail - Reopening Miller Creek and the Hybrid Programs

To: anneshaver6@gmail.com

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MILLER CREEK

School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Comment for Meeting 10/13 Item 5.1

2 messages

Kathryn Elena Whitten <kew2163@columbia.edu>

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 8:16 PM

To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

I would like to address item 5.1 on the agenda.

I do not want my mother, Christine Whitten, to have to return to teaching in person. Currently, cases in Marin are still much too high for an in person return to be safe. Our community will not be the exception to the patterns we have so far seen regarding how COVID spreads. If schools reopen, people in our community will get sick. As a result, people from our own community will be added to the list of the 215,000 current deaths in the United States. Reopening should immediately be slowed down out of basic concern for the safety of teachers and their families. At the very least, every teacher should have the choice of whether or not they want to continue to teach virtually. No teacher should be forced to risk their lives.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Whitten

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 8:16 PM

To: kew2163@columbia.edu

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Reopening school comment (agenda 2)

2 messages

Kiersten Connor <ksconnor@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 8:47 PM

Dear Miller Creek School Board,

We're writing to thank you for all your efforts in getting our schools open safely and voice our support of your timeline. Your back to school hybrid program is a great plan to have the kids back in school with proper protective measures to protect both staff and students. Our amazing teachers have done the best they can with the tools available to them but it just does not replace in person teaching. We do not feel our kids are getting the best possible education or the in person engagement they need with their teachers and peers.

We need to listen to science and logic, and life needs to move forward in a safe manner, and not frozen in fear. Please continue opening the schools on the planned dates for all of us who want to have our kids return to the classroom ASAP. Parents who are not ready, have the option of the virtual academy.

Thank you,
Kiersten and David Hoey

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: ksconnor@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 8:47 PM

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Public Comment Addressing Item 5.1 from Tara Costello

2 messages

Tara Costello <tarancostello@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 8:48 PM

Dear Board Trustees,

I have addressed you many times over the years. Sometimes as an educator, sometimes as a union leader . . . and this time as a terrified human during a pandemic. Over the years we have worked together to continue to work on our common goal, educating our students in a safe environment.

Over the past few months, our community has worked hard to navigate this goal during an unprecedented time. Never have we as a community had to endure the types of challenges we have been presented since this past March.

And now we look on as schools across the nation and the world are opening and closing and making difficult decisions. Some of our neighbors are opening, and others are choosing to delay and stay remote. All schools with the same goal as our district, to continue to educate students in a safe environment. But sadly, I feel like nothing I can say will change your mind. Decisions have been made and my fate has been sealed.

So tonight this letter is not just to you our Trustees, but also to our community of families who are our partners in educating our students in a safe environment. To the "grownups" of our kiddos that we work so hard to educate every day. Please know your educators have never worked so hard in their lives. Never have we been pushed to the limits mentally and emotionally like we have these past months.

We are ALL making difficult decisions. We are ALL making sacrifices and changes to keep our community safe. But we all look at "SAFE" a little differently depending on our perspective.

So to all the grownups, please work with us. Please know we are being taxed to our core whether we are excited, hesitant, or terrified to return. Please know that for some of us the decision to return to in-person instruction is an easy one, and for others, it means no longer seeing some family members and friends and it scares us to our core. It means putting our own health out there and trusting that you will do everything you all can to keep us safe just as we HAVE DONE and will CONTINUE to do for our students. Please be patient and realize we have NEVER lost sight of our common goal, but that all of us believe in different paths to achieve it right now. Please work WITH us and recognize that we are all making incredible sacrifices too. We all want our students to grow and learn mentally and emotionally in a safe environment, but that doesn't mean we all need to take the same path to get to the same goal.

Thank you for your time.
Tara Costello

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: tarancostello@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 8:48 PM

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Board Agenda for October 13 Meeting

2 messages

Erika Gendreau <erikagendreau@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 8:48 PM

To: Becky Rosales <donotreply@millercreeksd.org>, pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Dear Ms. Rosales and all Board Members,

I am writing to express my concern over the survey results shown in the presentation for Agenda Item #2, specifically teacher and staff comfort levels with going back to in-person learning. While it appears that most parents at our school are at "comfortable" or "very comfortable" level, the majority of our teachers and staff are NOT comfortable with going back right now. This is concerning.

I do not feel that we need to rush back to in-person education at the risk of losing our beloved teachers. We all know that teachers are what make our District a highly desirable and sought-after place to live. They have spent countless hours preparing remote-learning curriculum, doing assessments, getting to know our children, and making the most of this situation. Is there any good reason why their concerns aren't being addressed or taken into account with the re-opening timeline?

Sincerely,

Erika Gendreau, mother of 2 LVE students

On Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 2:09 PM Miller Creek School District <donotreply@millercreeksd.org> wrote:

Dear Miller Creek Community:

The agenda for the regular meeting of the Miller Creek School Board has been posted [here](#).

The Board will hear three presentations at this meeting:

1. The District contracted with a mechanical engineer from Costa Engineers to evaluate HVAC systems at the schools in the district. Among Mr. Costa's recommendations was that the District consider modification of the HVAC systems in all four buildings with a retrofit with needlepoint bi-polar ionization (NPBI) systems to provide a higher equivalent MERV rating in the occupied space. The Board will hear a report on this technology. [Introduction to the Presentation](#).
2. At the Board of Education Meeting in July, district administrators presented recommendations for reopening for the 2020-21 school year, which were approved by the Board. A [phased plan](#) was developed that is aligned with State and Public Health guidance for a sequential, measured and deliberate approach for a return to site based classroom instruction. The design of all current student schedules allows for our schools to reopen using a hybrid model. Miller Creek School District schools began to slowly reopen to in person instruction this week, starting Monday, October 5th. District Administration will provide an update on the reopening and phasing plans, fall enrollment, class and cohort size data as well as recent survey results of certificated and classified staff and the parent community. [Presentation](#)
3. A number of questions and comments have surfaced in both the staff and community responses to the surveys regarding maximizing outdoor space and shade structures. Chief Business Official, Erik Lee, will provide some general information about shade structures and provide some examples of those that meet DSA standards. [Presentation](#)

For information about how the public can participate in the meeting please see the description at the beginning of the [agenda](#) or in the [News](#) section of the district website.

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11/6/2020

Miller Creek School District Mail - Board Agenda for October 13 Meeting

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: erikagendreau@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 8:49 PM

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

agenda item 2 public comment

2 messages

Trina Hurley <trina.hurley@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 9:35 PM

To the Miller Creek School Board:

I want to comment on my support for the reopening of our elementary schools. I am a Family Physician and have 2 daughters at Vallecito.

- I trust the expertise of our scientists and experts, both locally and globally. Very little COVID-19 spread has been linked to school or daycare. (School data is coming in, but daycare data is out since the beginning of the pandemic)
- Kids have been participating in small cohort daycare, day camp programs, sports teams and other recreational activities and our numbers are still going down.
- The schools have robust safety plan in place, the cohorts are small and the mere fact that all people on campus will be wearing masks is a huge part of what needs to be done to keep them and the staff safe. Teachers and staff who do not feel comfortable in a mask only have the option of adding a face shield or eye protection, which I wear much of the day, to further reduce the risk of possible transmission.
- Access to testing is good at this point, community-wide, and results come back quickly enough to actually do contract tracing and get a handle on any outbreak early.
- The district has graciously offered families the option of 100% remote learning, which is a great option for the families who do not want to go back.

I support the current plan for reopening.

Catherine Hurley MD

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: trina.hurley@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 9:36 PM

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Public Comment for tomorrow's board meeting (10/13)

2 messages

John Peregoy <jrperegoy@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 10:05 PM

Good evening Superintendent Rosales and Board of Trustees,

I'm writing tonight on Agenda Item 5.1, and I'd like to discuss the safety of our students, community, and staff if we move forward with the phased reopenings.

As an elementary teacher, I would love nothing more than to return to the routines, activities, and lessons that have worked well in my in-person classroom for years. I have an amazing group of students this year who are excited to learn and are deeply engaged in the activities I have planned.

However, I can't willingly put these students and our staff's lives on the line. We are still in the middle of a pandemic of a novel virus. We know very little of the long term effects of Covid19, whether physical or neurological. The Board needs to keep this at the forefront of any decisions that are made. How many people are you willing to take responsibility for when they get Covid19 from their school? As Marin County opens up more industries, we must prioritize education and health.

The task is insurmountable to get these schools safe to return in person. 12 person cohorts with my 7-8 years olds will not be able to keep a 6-foot distance the whole school day. I don't have an adequate amount of windows that will effectively circulate air through the class. Our custodians and support staff already have so much to do, I doubt they will be able to fully clean and disinfect every classroom at least two times per day. The PPE and seating arrangements offered in classrooms do not provide safe protection for children and staff. Ultimately, any class cohorts will not be effective as long as students are mixing after school in daycare, at home with friends, and with after school activities.

When Marin leaders and the community are able to band together and prioritize education and public health as cornerstones of the community, I know we can return to in-person instruction safely. Until then, I ask the Board to make the right choice for the safety of our community and children and choose to keep up distance learning until Marin County is able to prioritize education in order to safely return to school.

Sincerely,
John Peregoy

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: jrperegoy@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 10:05 PM

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Public Comment for tomorrow's board meeting (10/13)

2 messages

John Peregoy <jrperegoy@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 10:05 PM

Good evening Superintendent Rosales and Board of Trustees,

I'm writing tonight on Agenda Item 5.1, and I'd like to discuss the safety of our students, community, and staff if we move forward with the phased reopenings.

As an elementary teacher, I would love nothing more than to return to the routines, activities, and lessons that have worked well in my in-person classroom for years. I have an amazing group of students this year who are excited to learn and are deeply engaged in the activities I have planned.

However, I can't willingly put these students and our staff's lives on the line. We are still in the middle of a pandemic of a novel virus. We know very little of the long term effects of Covid19, whether physical or neurological. The Board needs to keep this at the forefront of any decisions that are made. How many people are you willing to take responsibility for when they get Covid19 from their school? As Marin County opens up more industries, we must prioritize education and health.

The task is insurmountable to get these schools safe to return in person. 12 person cohorts with my 7-8 years olds will not be able to keep a 6-foot distance the whole school day. I don't have an adequate amount of windows that will effectively circulate air through the class. Our custodians and support staff already have so much to do, I doubt they will be able to fully clean and disinfect every classroom at least two times per day. The PPE and seating arrangements offered in classrooms do not provide safe protection for children and staff. Ultimately, any class cohorts will not be effective as long as students are mixing after school in daycare, at home with friends, and with after school activities.

When Marin leaders and the community are able to band together and prioritize education and public health as cornerstones of the community, I know we can return to in-person instruction safely. Until then, I ask the Board to make the right choice for the safety of our community and children and choose to keep up distance learning until Marin County is able to prioritize education in order to safely return to school.

Sincerely,
John Peregoy

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: jrperegoy@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 10:05 PM

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MILLER CREEK

School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Public Comments For Board Meeting 10/13/20

2 messages

Kelley Lehman <kelleyyellek5@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 10:15 PM

To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Dear Miller Creek School Board Members,

My name is Kelley Lehman and I am a first grade teacher and a parent of a third grader at Vallecito. I am here to speak to agenda item 5.1.

As a teacher slated to involuntarily return to in person teaching on November 16th I am not comfortable returning, nor am I comfortable sending my daughter back.

We are going to lose dedicated teachers in this district because teachers don't feel safe returning. As the time nears I will need to make important decisions regarding my own return to the classroom. I urge the district to look to other districts that are being more cautious in opening schools. Returning students and teachers at the proposed rate is dangerous, irresponsible and too fast.

Teachers keep putting in requests for things that will make them feel safer and we keep hearing, "we don't have that kind of money". Teachers should get what they need to feel safe; things like, N-95 masks, air purifiers, plexi glass for student desks or materials to teach outside. We are not asking for much.

I go to school everyday to teach remotely from my classroom and I see how things are going with the hybrid classes. As a first grade teacher for 20+ years I know it is unrealistic to expect 5, 6 & 7 year olds to socially distance and to wear a mask properly. Please don't put our lives and the lives of our students and their families at risk.

Thank you for your time,
Kelley Lehman

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 10:15 PM

To: kelleyyellek5@gmail.com

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>



Comment for Agenda Item 5.1

2 messages

Regan Nadelberg <regannadelberg@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 11:09 PM

Comment addressing agenda item 5.1:

Good evening members of the board. I appreciate this opportunity to share my feelings and thoughts with you tonight. My name is Regan Nadelberg and I am a Kindergarten teacher at Vallecito and also the mother to a third and sixth grader in our district. I am extremely uncomfortable with the rushed pace of our current reopening plan. While it may feel just right for some, it feels unnecessarily risky, and irresponsible to me. You cannot force teachers and families back into the classroom before they feel it is safe enough. I ask that the administration and board consider taking the feelings of very concerned teachers and families seriously and work with us to come up with a solution we can all live with.

I am being told I must return to teaching in-person with the 3rd wave in November, and I fear I will not feel safe doing so. I don't know what I will do if I don't feel safe by then. Many teachers and families are being backed into a corner and many of us will have to make very difficult choices because we are given no other decent option. The virtual academy is not an acceptable alternative for many. There is no reason to force these families into an entire year of remote instruction when they are simply not ready to return in the next three to nine weeks.

Please consider that many of us teachers are parents as well. MANY. This will increase our personal exposure risk, and our students' exposure risk exponentially. I would be exposed to up to 24 families in my own class, and then another 24 families in my 3rd grader's class, and finally to another 40 families in my middle schooler's class cohort. I will go from my single family bubble, to a bubble with over 80 families. Would you put yourself at that type of risk right now? Or in three weeks? We need to slow this process down significantly as we enter the unknowns and predicted complications of cold and flu season. Folding new classes of students in every three weeks is not enough time to determine if our safety measures are indeed effective. This is a time for caution.

As a teacher, being forced to return before I feel it is safe enough for myself and the families of my students is unacceptable. There must be another option for teachers and families who are not comfortable with this fast paced timeline. We continue to insist to families that it is safe to return. Right now, no one knows what's safe enough. I do not want to be put in the position of welcoming my precious Kindergartners into the classroom, which I am SO eager to do, knowing I do not believe it is safe enough. I would feel personally responsible if the worst were to happen. This is too much to bear.

I propose we hold off on sending more classes back to school after the teachers who have volunteered to return are back on campus with their students, and offer an extended remote learning

option that extends through the holidays, when we will have a much better idea of how our community is doing in regards to COVID cases. I know this will require more polling and shuffling, and that will be difficult, but it will certainly be less painful than trying to cover for teachers who are forced to take leaves in order to guarantee their safety.

Finally, as a Kindergarten teacher faced with attempting to keep my students socially distant at an age where this is quite challenging and students require a lot of hands on assistance throughout the day, we need to increase our Instructional Aid time, so that we can help our students succeed while also keeping them and ourselves safe. After only one week of hybrid wave one under our belts, we already know that maintaining social distance is VERY challenging for our students and we are unable to manage this effectively without more help.

Thank you for listening.

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: regannadelberg@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 11:09 PM

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Letter to MCSD Board Regarding School Reopening

2 messages

Heath Caceres <heathcaceres@gmail.com>
To: Heath Caceres <heathcaceres@gmail.com>
Bcc: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 7:24 AM

Please see attached letter.

Thank you.

Heath Caceres



mcsd board letter 10.20.docx
126K

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: heathcaceres@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 7:24 AM

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>

October 13, 2020

Dear Miller Creek School Board,

This year has been extremely difficult for us all. I especially feel for our school communities and school board leadership during this time. I can only imagine how this pandemic has affected your work that you do to create the systems and structures to ensure our children receive the best possible education. As we gather more data about Coronavirus, the Board of Education should reflect upon and adjust recent decisions that considers the safety of our students, our teachers, and our in person protocols that match the recommendations of our science community.

A sense of safety from our teachers and staff is paramount for a successful reopening of our schools. I worry about the scenario that unfolds if our educators are asked to return to school when they feel the environment is unsafe. We need to revisit our structures to ensure that they best meet the health, instructional, and educational needs of all our students and staff. Protocols need to be communicated thoroughly to all constituents. Our teachers and families need to know all precautions and the planned responses.

I ask that the board of education consider a more systemic and consistent approach to reopening that is understandable and is agreed upon by our teachers. I ask that the board reconsider timelines for classes to return and reconsider the structure of the day. I ask that policies be consistent for all our schools. Permitting only certain classes at certain grade levels at certain schools to return to in person is not equitable. Half day schedules that have children in class only in the afternoon is not equitable either.

The Board needs to collect current information. Families that did not respond to surveys in the summer need a voice, and the families that did have a chance to respond may have new opinions since the situation on the ground has changed.

At this point what has been communicated to the community is fragmented and appears to lack a comprehensive and cohesive strategy. Proper planning and consistent implementation of a streamlined system of structures makes sense. These considerations will promote transparency, trust, and equity in the District as we move towards a sustainable and safe return to in-person classes.

Sincerely,

Heath Caceres



MILLER CREEK

School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Public Comment for 10/13/20 meeting

2 messages

Susanah <susanahgasper@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 9:28 AM

To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Dear Miller Creek School Board,

My children are scheduled to start back in the classroom in the 3rd and 4th waves at Vallecito and I am writing in support of the current phase-in plan and timeline of reopening MCSD schools.

I'm an RN in the ICU and I know first hand that health and safety precautions can protect you from Covid-19. I trust the science of how this virus is spread and I support the site safety plans in place to protect our kids and teachers.

I know some families aren't ready to send their kids back to school, and I'm happy they have the option to choose 100% virtual learning, while allowing those of us who ARE comfortable with the precautions in place, to move forward as soon as possible.

Thank you for passing the current plan and continuing with the current timeline of phasing our children back into the classroom.

Sincerely,

Susanah Gasper, RN

Sent from my iPhone

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 9:28 AM

To: susanahgasper@gmail.com

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>

October 12, 2020

Miller Creek Board of Education

380 Nova Albion Way

San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear School Board Members,

I am a first grade teacher at Vallecito Elementary School. This is my third year in the district and I have enjoyed becoming part of the Miller Creek community. Thank you for letting me express my concerns about school safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am writing to request the Board re-consider our timeline of hybrid phase implementation, which coincides with the beginning of flu season. The early elementary aged students I work with struggle to implement basic health hygiene; covering their cough, throwing away used tissues, and washing their hands. The SSSPP states that high touch areas will be disinfected between each cohort of 12 students daily, by an instructional aide. However, when class is in session, I will be alone with twelve 6-7 year olds. Realistically, it is impossible for one adult to monitor twelve busy children in this context.

During the normal flu season, I constantly remind students of health hygiene practices. I do my best, hoping that everyone stays reasonably healthy. But now: the stakes are much higher. I wake up at night worrying about what will happen if a student in my class develops COVID-19. Might their health be negatively impacted on a permanent basis? Will they infect other family members? I do not want my students or their loved ones to die, should they contract COVID-19.

This is the world's first winter in the grip of COVID-19 and the immediate future is uncertain. As yet, we cannot control this virus but we can mitigate its effects by adopting a more cautious approach. By keeping students learning

remotely from home through the flu season, we avoid exposing the Miller Creek community to unnecessary risk.

Remote learning is not an ideal solution to this situation, but it is the approach we have adopted as a district. Teachers, students, and parents have worked hard to implement remote learning. Continuing with remote learning through the flu season is the only option that ensures student and staff safety at this time.

I want to acknowledge the time and effort the school board puts into protecting the safety of the Miller Creek community.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cherian

First Grade Teacher

Vallecito Elementary



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Board Meeting 10-13 Agenda Item 5.1

2 messages

Adriann Farrell <adriannfarrell@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 10:20 AM

To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Cc: mschott@millercreeksd.org, bnguyen@millercreeksd.org, mhutchinson@millercreeksd.org, achacko@millercreeksd.org, bhonsberger@millercreeksd.org, ktreewater@millercreeksd.org, brosales@millercreeksd.org, superintendentsoffice@marinschools.org

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to inform you that we do not support the return to in person instruction at our school without the agreement of our teachers. We are happy to continue with remote instruction from our teachers until that time.

Kind regards,

Adriann Farrell and Jeremy Kanarek

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 10:20 AM

To: adriannfarrell@gmail.com

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Agenda Item 5.1

1 message

Kathryn Elena Whitten <kew2163@columbia.edu>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 10:34 AM

Dear Members of the Board,

Without a vaccine or cure, if you return to in-class instruction you are forcing teachers to risk their lives. They have not been asked. Some will not be able to opt out and will be forced to live in fear of sickness and fear for their closest loved ones. Some will get sick.

Teachers' voices have not been heard. A survey is not adequate. There were no follow up interviews. They have not been included in the decision to return. Instead there seems to be so much pressure to return to the classroom. I am the husband of a teacher and I often overhear many things on zoom. All I hear is fear, anger and resentment. Not once have I heard a teacher voice enthusiasm for returning. I occasionally hear someone in the community asking about teachers only to have that person ignored. Would the community be as excited to return if they knew the true feelings of the teachers?

Slow this thing down. Consult your teachers and listen every step of the way. They will be risking the most and deserve no less. Go through this pandemic with a united school district that includes staff, teachers, and families. Do not risk the health of the love of my life and my children without asking first.

Sincerely,
Eric Whitten



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Opening Schools Agenda 5.1

2 messages

Michael Jacquart <sitgeorgesit@yahoo.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 11:08 AM

To: "pubcomms@millercreeksd.org" <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Dear Miller Creek School Board Members,

My name is Michael Jacquart, I have a daughter in third grade at Vallecito. I am writing in regards to agenda 5.1.

This pandemic hasn't been easy on us, but it is a marathon, not a sprint.

I do not feel safe sending my daughter back to school this soon. It's not safe for her, me, or teachers and staff.

Opening now because of some small political gain, greed, and false bravado disguised as a "what's good for the children" will come at a cost. We will lose experienced teachers and support staff who won't go back this soon. Those who choose to stay will spend more time managing poorly constructed safety protocols than they will teaching.

I would rather wait through the impending second wave of Covid and have teachers and children supported with remote learning. We are just hitting our stride.

Sincerely,
Michael Jacquart

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 11:08 AM

To: sitgeorgesit@yahoo.com

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>

11/6/2020

Miller Creek School District Mail - Board meeting tonight



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Board meeting tonight

1 message

Kate Byrnes <kateabyrnes@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 11:18 AM

Hello. I sent a statement to be read at the meeting, but neglected to add my name.
Thank you

Kate Byrnes
San Rafael



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Comment for Board Meeting

2 messages

Beth Knight <bruinsbeth@yahoo.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 11:55 AM

To: "pubcomms@millercreeksd.org" <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Dear Superintendent Rosales and Board Members,

I wanted to say thank you for opening our schools up this fall. I believe that it is a great asset to our children to have them back in school, and I appreciate that you are making that happen for our students. I also appreciate the slow process with which the schools are opening the doors. By opening a few classroom at a time, you are making the students' and staff members' safety the priority. I hope that the plan remains the same, with classrooms continuing to open every few weeks.

Thank you,
Vallecito Parent

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 11:55 AM

To: bruinsbeth@yahoo.com

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Letter to MCSD School Board regarding Agenda Item 5.1 Reopening Schools

2 messages

Mariah Caceres <mariahcaceres@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 12:04 PM

To: Mariah Caceres <mcaceres@millercreeksd.org>

Bcc: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Dear Miller Creek School District Board Members,

I am a third grade teacher at Lucas Valley Elementary, and a parent of four girls, one of whom is a student at LVE. As a teacher, I am a caregiver, a planner, a fixer, a helper, and I want nothing more than to be back in the classroom with my students, especially as they are going through such an uncertain time. With that in mind, I am reaching out to you now, as the hybrid model is moving full steam ahead alongside Covid-19.

Many of us, students, parents, and staff, do not feel safe returning to the classroom as the current timeline is set and with the current conditions. We are in the middle of a deadly global pandemic, heading into cold and flu season, and risking the health and lives of our children, families, and staff for in person schooling is not worth the risk. There are just too many unknowns with this deadly virus, and it is irresponsible to put the lives of our children on the line. Now is the time to step back and reevaluate, not push ahead.

I know that we have worked tirelessly to formulate a plan for returning to school, and we should be proud of that. Choosing to reevaluate that plan now is the mark of a strong and thoughtful collaborative process, not a failure. The current plan is based on a survey that was given in July when all we had to go on was our experience in the spring, which by all accounts was not good. The morning/afternoon hybrid model does not allow for adequate cleaning staff or time and is inequitable for the afternoon group. It also means that teachers are interacting with more than the recommended number of students on a daily basis.

I urge our MCSD School Board to continue with the current remote learning model at least through 2020. It is working and most importantly it is safe.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,
Mariah Caceres

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 12:04 PM

To: mariahcaceres@gmail.com

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>

Jessica Nau

Petaluma, CA

jnau@millercreeksd.org

707.953.3566

October 13th, 2020

Miller Creek School District

Board of Trustees

Superintendent Becky Rosales

Asst. Superintendent Kristy Treewater

Re: Agenda Item 5.1 Reopening Schools

To Miller Creek Board of Trustees,

I am sharing my concerns with you as I am 33 weeks pregnant and have been asked to come back to in-person instruction on October 26th (the second wave). What this means for me: I have had to choose my love for teaching my students, who I care about deeply, and the health of my unborn child, family, and approaching birth. The feelings I have around being put in this situation, when my class could have easily been put in the 3rd or 4th wave are deep.

Eight out of my nine students are requesting to stay remote. Only 1 is coming back. The district has decided I can teach part time 8:15-11:15 with my remote students. However, I am now told that I must work on campus when doing so. So I am again stressed and saddened having to oppose the district's decisions and hope that a medical accommodation will be accepted. If it is not- I will be forced to take a leave- unpaid.

I should not have to fight for my health and safety like this. I should not have to spend my last month of pregnancy this worried.

Sincerely,

Jessica Nau

Lucas Valley Elementary Educator



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Concerned parents about starting the phase 2 in October

2 messages

Karsson Hevia <karsson1@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 12:44 PM

To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org, mschott@millercreeksd.org, bnguyen@millercreeksd.org, mhutchinson@millercreeksd.org, achacko@millercreeksd.org, bhonsberger@millercreeksd.org, ktreewater@millercreeksd.org, brosales@millercreeksd.org, superintendentsoffice@marinschools.org

To Whom it May Concern,

As with the vastness of this pandemic and its ever-reaching tentacles, there are so many factors to consider and not one clear-cut answer nor one-size-fits-all solution as to when schools should re-open for our children. Yet, taking into consideration the severity of this pandemic, and the overwhelming sense of apprehension among our teachers in our school, and district-wide, it seems apparent that opening phase 2 this October is both a rushed decision and one with which so many oppose. We should be supporting our teachers, and making decisions based on the wellbeing of both them and their families as well as our school children. I understand it is not an easy feat to appease everyone — but when the majority of educators are on the side not returning for phase 2 at the end of October, we need to be listening.

I realize the implications of remaining closed for a longer duration and completely validate the trials and tribulations that go along with home-schooling. We are a two-parent household for which both parents have professional careers, and it's certainly not been a walk in the park in the way of online learning. We've had our difficult days, our tears, and our fair share of frustrations. None of this comes close to comparing to the very possible realization of having a sick family member diagnosed with Covid come this winter when the flu and Covid numbers are on the rise.

The for sake of everyone involved, I think it best to remain conservative with our school openings and wait for an opportunity when numbers are lower and we have a better illustration and understanding of what the cold and flu season looks like when coupled with Covid. I for one, want to go back under the pretense that we as parents, feel our children are going to be safe due to facts and real numbers, not estimations and hypothesis, and that teachers feel comfortable, not cornered, into a decision they feel unsafe with.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this manner.

Karsson Hevia
Content Writer + Social Media Strategist
2ManyOpenTabs.com

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 12:44 PM

To: karsson1@gmail.com

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>

**Re: Comment/letter regarding Agenda Item 5.1. Presentation on Reopening of Schools**

2 messages

Sivan Oyserman <oyserman@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 12:44 PM

To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org, brosales@millercreeksd.org, ktreewater@millercreeksd.org

Cc: mschott@millercreeksd.org, Brooks Nguyen <bnguyen@millercreeksd.org>, mhutchinson@millercreeksd.org, achacko@millercreeksd.org, bhonsberger@millercreeksd.org

Dear Miller Creek District School Board Members,

My, husband and I are the parents to a kindergartener and 2nd grader at Lucas Valley Elementary. We are writing to the board to address our concern about the current plan to reopen schools. We have degrees in Molecular Biology (B.S and a PhD respectively) and have taken this pandemic very seriously.

We would like to commend the district for providing iPads/Chrome books and other online tools at the start of this year to help with the 2020 school year. While this online schooling is not ideal our teachers have really stepped up and tried adapt to this new reality.

When the initial survey's went out in June/July none us knew what the fall would bring, what the infection numbers would be and how the "Fire season" would unfold. Now we know. From the survey that is in the board packet 50% of LVE parents are uncomfortable returning and it looks like 75% of the LVE teachers are not comfortable in returning to campus. Doing the numbers that means only 3 teachers are comfortable returning. Why are we moving forward if the teachers are not comfortable? If the teachers don't come back or get sick who will be teaching the kids? Long term subs? Will that be serving the students?

We have additional questions about the fact that are a lot of kids on campus who have siblings in other grades and in middle school. What happens if one child is exposed and their cohort is asked to stay home? Will the other child in another grades cohorts need to quarantine to- what about exposure with a child who has a sibling at the middle school?

Following this train of thought when we return from Thanksgiving break and Winter break, will people who traveled need to quarantine for 14 days before returning to campus? This is the practice with the preschools in the district will this be implemented for the rest of the district?

With being informed that our youngest is scheduled to return on Oct 26 we reached out to find out about if the kids will be returning to campus to indoor or outdoor classroom and what is being done about the ventilation in the classrooms. At this time that has not been decided nor have these other items we brought up been figured out- this is alarming to us. Will the teachers be able to teach outside? Will tents/shade sails be installed so they can teach outside even when it is a little rainy? The board packet shows that the ventilation system is not what it needs to be with the filters. Why hasn't this been addressed before students started coming back? When will it be addressed?

In addition the current protocol with 45 minutes between the am/pm cohort hybrid model puts everyone's health at risk with not giving sufficient time to clean the campus, especially since we now know Covid-19 can be spread by aerosolized droplets and can live on the skin for 9 hours and on surfaces for much longer. What is the protocol for the shared bathrooms? 1 bathroom will be shared between multiple cohorts? Who will clean between each student?

While we would love to have our children be back to in person instruction, we do not believe that risking the teachers, kids and our families health is the way to go. So we have decided to request that our children be pulled from their classes with their friends and from teachers they have come to know and love and be enrolled in the online academy. Only to be told that there is only room for one of our children.

We urge you to reconsider moving forward with the current schedule of returning to in person classes on campus. Please pause, resurvey the parents and teachers, and please think through and solve some of these big questions before doing anything else.

Sincerely,
Sivan Oyserman & Michael Friedman

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: oyserman@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 12:44 PM

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Comments for Board Meeting - safety of return to school

2 messages

Tanya Powell <tanyapowell78@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 12:46 PM

To: achacko@millercreeksd.org, Brooks Nguyen <bnguyen@millercreeksd.org>, mhutchinson@millercreeksd.org, bhonsberger@millercreeksd.org, mschott@millercreeksd.org, pubcomms@millercreeksd.org
Cc: ttate@millercreeksd.org, Will Anderson <>wanderson@millercreeksd.org>

Good Afternoon,

We would like to submit the following comment for the board meeting for Item 5.1.

We have a daughter in 6th grade at MCMS and twins at LVE. They are all having a good experience with remote learning this fall and love their teachers!

We are concerned about the timing of return to school prior to/during the holiday season. The timing of student's return to campus will result in a higher level of exposure for families who will undoubtedly carry on with family gatherings despite public health recommendations.

We know that there are families already not following the guidelines set in place to keep teachers and families safe (case in point, kids admitting on the first day back that they did not, in fact, have their temperature taken as reported by parents). We've seen the dozens of maskless kids on the MCMS field playing soccer with no regard to social distancing. Children who have been engaging in these activities will be going to school at our campuses. This is enough evidence to us that our community is not fully committed to the public health guidelines that are necessary for the safe return to school.

The CDC has now reported that COVID-19 can be spread through aerosol transmission. The fact that the district is researching ways to filter the virus out of the air that our children will be breathing is reason enough to give us pause.

On a practical note, the return to school will not result in any help for us as working parents. The proposed schedule between the two schools is not tenable (at best 1 hr of time with all kids at school, and the addition of 4 different drop-off/pick-up times). This is the least of our concern but worth noting. The push to return to school has been described as a relief for parents, but for many of us it will complicate our days.

Given these concerns, which are shared by many of the parents and all of the teachers we have talked with, we are asking that the District delay the return of in-person learning until at least after the Winter Break.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to attending the board meeting remotely (safely).

Shawn and Tanya Powell

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 12:46 PM

To: tanyapowell78@gmail.com

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Board Mtg 10/13 Agenda Item 5.1

2 messages

Nicole Cunha <nicolecunha8@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 1:22 PM

Dear Miller Creek School Board of Trustees and Ms. Rosales and Ms. Treewater,

RE: Agenda Item Re-opening 5.1

I am writing to express my thoughts on the re-opening of schools in our District, more importantly, my concern about Kindergarten being in Wave 2. I am a parent of two school-aged children (Kindergarten and 2nd grade) and a Kindergarten teacher in the District. When I was first hired into the MCSD over 14 years ago, I was so honored to be teaching at such an amazing and distinguished school. It is a privilege to work here and I have been committed to my responsibility as an educator.

I am fearful that we are rushing back to school in order to find some 'normalcy' for our children and also so that families can get back to work (free of children at home). While I would love for us all to be in school I am concerned we are opening ourselves up to potential cases. Our Remote Learning Program is robust, creative, and thoughtful. This program is working and is reaching our student's needs. The feedback from families and the engagement of our students is incredible.

From a parent's perspective, my own children are thriving in the Remote Learning model. They love school, they love the hands-on activities, they love the zoom lessons, and **love their teachers**. Unlike some of their peers in other local school Districts, my girls are excited to join Zoom small groups with their teachers, eager to watch their teacher be silly on Loom videos, and are enjoying the PE, Library lessons, and Art activities.

We have now begun re-opening and I have had to step back to think about what is best for my family, health, and for my career. I have researched and inquired about taking a leave. My options at this time are to go back to school or take an extended leave. It is my understanding that we had three volunteers for the first wave of in-person teaching at LVE and the remaining teachers were placed into the Wave 2-4 timeline. The fact that there were only three teachers that volunteered at my school site, may give you an idea of the lack of comfort for educators going back to in-person teaching at this time. As seen on the survey presentation tonight-it is clear where teachers stand. The teachers do NOT feel comfortable going to in-person teaching at this time!

I truly feel it is not time to re-open schools. We have no idea what will happen once the weather changes and cold/flu season and holiday season/traveling begin. Some Marin and other bay area districts plan to wait until early 2021 to open when we are hopefully closer to having a vaccine and reliable treatments. New York just last week shut down schools that were open in 9 counties due to an increase in positive cases. Do we really want to go back and risk closing again if cases develop within our district? Do we really want to be THAT district that has to deal with the devastating consequences of this deadly virus? I am worried about my health, and the health of my fellow colleagues, custodial staff, children, and their families.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am more than happy to discuss this with you by phone or zoom.

Nicole Cunha

11/6/2020

Miller Creek School District Mail - Board Mtg 10/13 Agenda Item 5.1

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 1:22 PM

To: nicolecunha8@gmail.com

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Public Comment - 5.1

2 messages

Jackie Berringer <jackieberringer@yahoo.com>
To: "pubcomms@millercreeksd.org" <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 1:36 PM

Reopening Schools Agenda 5.1

To The Board of Trustees

I have been a member of the Miller Creek School District community and staff for many years. I have always been proud of how our parents, school staff, and administrators have come together to face difficult issues. I believe that this is one of those times when we need to work together to support our educators and, in turn, become even stronger as a community.

As teachers and parents, we teach our children to be upstanders - "people who intervene on behalf of a person who is being attacked or bullied". Our teachers need us all to be upstanders for them right now. 75% of the teachers at Lucas Valley Elementary School are not comfortable going back to in-person instruction. They should not be forced to do so. It is not good for teachers, it is not good for students, and it is not good for our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: jackieberringer@yahoo.com

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 1:36 PM

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>

To: Miller Creek School Board

From: Rachel Coxon, Vallecito Parent

Our schools need to fully re-open now. Our schools are the beating heart of our community, and their continued closure (or so-called “hybrid model”) will only hasten our community’s decline.

We have already seen neighbors move due to the need to pay for in-person schooling. This trend will only hasten if families are forced to settle for the remote or hybrid model. Fewer families and fewer children will quickly result in fewer teaching jobs.

It is clear the coronavirus is not going to magically disappear tomorrow, next month or even next year. We must plan now for the next several years, and ask ourselves how our children will recover from the educational, social and emotional deficit they are suffering under the current framework.

Children in other counties and other states have been in physical classrooms since August, where they are learning, playing, bonding and growing all day long. We are senselessly depriving our own children of this same enrichment. We can change this now by listening to doctors, science and reason, and by rejecting fear-based narratives.

I love our teachers and would regret losing any one of them because they are not comfortable returning to school. But our children deserve teachers brave enough to show up in a classroom, and those preventing a return to school need to stand aside for the greater good of our community.

Throughout this pandemic, we have been constantly reminded to “listen to the science.” That is the correct approach. The case for not returning to school is based primarily on people’s emotions, on how people “feel” about returning. The scientific consensus today is that a return to school presents minimal risk to students, teachers and families, and that those risks are greatly outweighed by the educational, social and emotional benefits to our children.

Since August, Vallecito has hosted 50+ students in on-campus care programs each day, including day-long mingling among students and in-person access to teachers, all without incident. Not only does this demonstrate we can safely gather on campus, but it is also infuriating that school resources are applied to benefit a few children whose families can afford to pay extra while leaving the rest of us excluded.

I would ask the board to address these questions:

1. Right now, our children are behind. What is your plan for helping our children recover from the educational, social and emotional deficit they are suffering under the remote and hybrid models?

2. Given the infection and death rates in Marin, which are extremely low compared to other counties and states, and given the green light that public health officials have given to re-opening schools, what more assurances will you need before allowing a full return to school? Please be specific.
3. Given that we will likely continue to see some level of infections and deaths continuing into next summer and fall, what should families expect for the 2021-2022 school year? We deserve to know now.

The fear-driven lockdown mentality is irreparably harming our children and our community while not meaningfully protecting us from Covid. We must do better. Open the schools now for all those who want to send their children to school.

Loving regards,

Rachel Coxon, Vallecito Parent to Three



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Return to Hybrid Instruction

2 messages

Devon Marvel <dmarvel@millercreeksd.org>
To: Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 1:53 PM

To the members of the board,

I am a kindergarten teacher at Vallecito and am writing to express my concern about returning to campus in November. I am uncomfortable with the fact that proper measures have not been taken to ensure the safety of the classrooms.

Specifically, I am concerned that the heating and cooling systems in the rooms (when they exist) are not equipped with the recommended MERV filters. There has not been much communication around this subject which is fostering more anxiety. At a minimum, every classroom should be furnished with portable HEPA fan/filtration systems that accommodate the cubic volume of the room. We have heard that there may not be enough funds to purchase filters for all classrooms.

In addition, I am uncomfortable with the fact we are only provided with one 3-way shield for small group work instead of a partition for each student during whole group instruction which will be the primary mode of teaching.

As teachers we are hearing the recommendations from the CDC about what is needed and we are seeing other schools taking these protocols to ensure their staff and families' safety; however, we are not getting confirmation from our own district leaders about how they are addressing these issues.

Without the funds to provide these essential materials to reduce the potential spread of COVID the next obvious choice is to "buy time". My request is that we not return to school during the beginning of flu season and simultaneously when the weather will force us to be indoors. Let's take the time to do this safely and postpone the return to campus learning until we are certain we can ensure everyone's well-being.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Devon Marvel

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: dmarvel@millercreeksd.org

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 1:53 PM

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MILLER CREEK

School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Public Comment: 5.1/Reopening of Schools

2 messages

mary krause <mkaysmiling@hotmail.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:02 PM

To: "pubcomms@millercreeksd.org" <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

I am one of the teachers in Miller Creek School District who is scared of the district's current plan to reopen our schools. I would like to say that I have been identified as an essential worker, not a sacrificial worker. I am scared of the certainty that infected students and teachers will bring Covid-19 home to their families, creating a greater infection rate in our community. I am scared that you have made the decision to live with the fact that infected students, teachers, and staff could suffer from serious life-long health issues. I am devastated that because of your decision I won't be able to spend my weekly visits or Thanksgiving with my elderly mother who I serve as a support and caretaker. I ask that you reconsider your plan to reopen our schools and keep our students, teachers, and staff safe during these unprecedented and uncertain times.

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:02 PM

To: mkaysmiling@hotmail.com

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Public Comment for Board Meeting 10/13/20

2 messages

Katie Demartini <kdemartini@millercreeksd.org>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:06 PM

We are writing as concerned parents and as a teacher in the Miller Creek School District. We have two children attending Vallecito Elementary School and I have taught kindergarten here for 13 years. We are concerned with the overall readiness of our schools.

We feel that the issue of safe and effective air ventilation and filtration is not adequate in our classrooms. There either needs to be money put into providing functioning air purifiers in each classroom or our current HVAC systems need to be replaced or updated. With smoky days making it impossible to keep our doors and windows open at all times, as well as the winter weather forcing us to be indoors without proper air filtration and ventilation, is unsettling. I feel as a teacher and a mother very uncomfortable in my working environment or my children's learning environment. I know many parents feel the same.

Purchasing plexiglass sneeze guards for each cohort, especially as students are scheduled to return during cold and flu season, is a must! Plexiglass shields will make our teachers and students more protected.

We also are concerned about the safety measures that we still feel are not equitable amongst other nearby school districts. For example, my mother in law teaches at Neil Cummings and my nieces and nephews all attend the Larkspur/Corte Madera school district. In their classrooms, they have huge plexiglass partitions to separate the students at 6 feet long tables. In addition, they have plexiglass teacher stations in each classroom separating the teacher from the student, to work one on one with each child. Vallecito teachers have been given one plexiglass partition for the teacher and none for students. There are arrows showing which direction students are allowed to walk to the bathroom and training videos for all the new procedures on campus. I urge you to tour the Larkspur/Corte Madera School District to see what safety measure they have in place, which has allowed them to open all classrooms in a hybrid model.

We are also concerned about the hybrid waves set to return to school on November 16th for the third wave and December 7th for the fourth wave. Being that the students will return right in the middle of cold and flu season, as well as during holiday time when people are ultimately going to be surrounding themselves with family and friends for their celebrations.

I ask the board to reconsider the timing of returning for waves 3 and 4 as well as ensuring all our campuses are equipped with the necessary safety measures before more teachers and students return to school.

Thank you,

Katie and Craig DeMartini

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: kdemartini@millercreeksd.org

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:06 PM

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Agenda Item 2 comment

2 messages

Elaine Esler <elaine.esler@hotmail.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:08 PM

To: "pubcomms@millercreeksd.org" <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Hi,

I am the parent of a 4th grader at Vallecito, who is scheduled to return to in person learning on October 26th. I wish to express my support for the reopening process as it is currently laid out.

As a nurse at UCSF, I have been working at the hospital throughout this pandemic. I feel confident in the safety measures laid out in the SSSPP and the processes that have been put in place at Vallecito.

I appreciate the 3 week staggered return schedule and the option of the year round virtual learning academy for people who do not feel comfortable having their children return.

Thank you to everyone involved in this process. It has not been an easy task.
Take care,
Elaine Esler

Sent from my iPhone

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:08 PM

To: elaine.esler@hotmail.com

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

phase 2 teachers survey

2 messages

sarah stallone <sas1018@aol.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:18 PM

Reply-To: sarah stallone <sas1018@aol.com>

To: "pubcomms@millercreeksd.org" <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Hello,

I am writing in regards to some questions and concerns I have regarding the timing of phase 2. I am the parent of a new kindergartener at LVE and I have some concerns over the results of the teachers survey regarding the Phase 2 timing. As we know, it is the amazing effort and presence of the teachers that ultimately benefit our children. I am hoping that at the meeting tonight the teachers survey will be addressed. If 75% of the teachers have voted that they do not support the timing of phase 2, has a phase 2 delay date been considered based on these results? Can we hear more about what was involved in that survey? How are we supporting our teachers if we go ahead with the Oct. 26 start date? Also, if teachers need to be on leave or need extended sick days will that mean various substitute teachers or return to distance learning days for our children?

I appreciate the opportunity to ask these questions and voice my concerns. Looking forward to getting more information and clarification tonight.

Thank you,
Sarah Stallone-O'Brien

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:18 PM

To: sas1018@aol.com

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

For public comment

2 messages

Sandy Stern <sandy.stern7@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:27 PM

To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Dear Miller Creek School Board,

I am communicating my concern for the current reopening plans for Miller Creek School District. I am a parent of three children at Lucas Valley School.

Looking at your presentation, I can see that most of our teachers are not comfortable returning to school this year. If they choose not to return to school, where will that leave our children? What is the District's plan in that scenario? Long-term substitute teachers will leave our children's education further behind than ever. Further, many parents will choose not to send their children to their District school if there is long-term substitute teaching (particularly if the plan is to have a rotating sub). Our teachers deserve to feel safe when teaching. That might mean not teaching in person during a pandemic.

At last month's Board meeting, a board member referenced messaging to remind parents to keep in pods and not travel during the holidays. I think this is an ambitious idea, however, this District should keep in mind that Marin County as well as Miller Creek School District had a very difficult time getting children into classrooms on Monday and Fridays pre-pandemic due to parent travel. Coronavirus may have changed some things, but the ability and willingness to travel for many in this county has not diminished. Under the assumption that some families will continue to travel, the District does not have messaging or contact tracing resources to mitigate the spread of virus.

Of particular concern is the current morning / afternoon school schedule. 45 minutes between cohorts is not a sufficient amount of time to properly clean classrooms, bathrooms and the remainder of the campus, putting afternoon students and staff at further risk of contracting COVID-19. We now know that COVID remains aerosolized longer than previously thought. At minimum, you consider having children who are most medically at risk in morning classes since classrooms can be thoroughly cleaned after the afternoon classes, decreasing the chances of potential virus transmission to our most vulnerable children.

Thank you for your time,
Sandy Stern

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:27 PM

To: sandy.stern7@gmail.com

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>



MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Board Public Comment

2 messages

Jaimi Cortes <jaimicortes@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:41 PM

Dear Board,

I understand that these are incredibly difficult times and decisions weigh on everyone, but I urge you to pause and reevaluate the current timeline of waves. As I see in the report, 29% of parents and 52% of teachers are not comfortable returning (not counting neutral). It should be noted that this survey also was taken when parents were not informed of what wave they would be in and how earlier the timeline was pushed. Couldn't you reassess placements so both parents and teachers feel safe and not forced into these timelines?

I would also ask that there is either a school or district-wide Q & A with families. Parent concerns are not getting answered. Yesterday, the second wave families had a webinar, but the principals presented about returning then suddenly the webinar ended without addressing tons of parent questions. These are important concerns that I don't understand why they are being ignored.

Lastly, as I am sure you are all seeing in new headlines - COVID cases are surging around the US. CA will not be immune especially as we open more indoor activities and holiday gatherings happen. Please provide some families who are not ready to enter this fall semester with more distance learning opportunities without "locking" us into a full year. We know there are teachers who are open to this as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Jaimi and Ken Cortes

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: jaimicortes@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:41 PM

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

To be read at the board meeting tonight.

2 messages

Gooch Family <themgooches@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:42 PM

Dear Miller Creek School Board,

We are parents of two Vallecito students who are in 1st and 3rd grade. We sent a letter back at the end of September, but wanted to express our latest sentiments in the public forum, as well.

First, we would like to extend our gratitude to the educators and staff who clearly put a lot of thought into our remote instruction for this fall. While remote will never compare to in-person, huge improvements have been made that are keeping our kids engaged and on task. Thank you.

Second, we are very torn between wanting our kids back in school and being extremely concerned about the current timing to bring back all of the students and teachers before the end of year, especially with flu season, a possible second wave and holidays coming up fast.

To help us out, we're looking for transparency on three main topics –

1. **Are teachers comfortable with returning?** And, if not, what is being done to ensure their comfort and safety? They have to feel good about keeping our kids safe, as well as themselves and their families, and we'd like to know they are comfortable with what is being asked of them.
2. **What alternative, bold options have or are being explored?** We've all had ideas, but we don't know if they've been explored and either ruled out or are being implemented. For example, outdoor classrooms were suggested last spring and are finally being addressed tonight. As another example, have we explored ways to bring back half the school interested in returning, while allowing the other half to stay remote until the new year?
3. **What value does a 3-hour in-person school day give us over remote learning?** We're concerned the short in-person day with transitions between in-class and remote has great potential to be more taxing on teachers and students and provides little relief to parents/caregivers.

We appreciate any insights and transparency you and the back to school committee have in helping us feel more comfortable about the current plans.

Thank you.

Sara & Jason Gooch

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: themgooches@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:43 PM

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Agenda Item 5.1 Reopening Schools

2 messages

Ali deGuia 📧 <adeguia@me.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:50 PM

Dear Miller Creek School District Board of Trustees,

First of all, thank you for your time. We know that you have been thinking about all of the different pieces to make this reopening work for everyone. We know you are working long hours as you are thinking of ways to keep everyone safe.

I would like to address Agenda Item 5.1 regarding Reopening Schools. My name is Ali deGuia-Bumgarner and I have taught in this district for 22 years. I may not be able to speak for all of the teachers, however, I can speak for quite a few. We work long hours into the evenings and weekends to complete thoughtful lessons for our students while they are learning remotely. This model is not perfect but we are proud of what we create. This is the 7th week of school and I feel very attached to my students that I see, if only on a screen. They love our Zoom time and enjoy talking and interacting with their peers. Planning thoughtful lessons and zooming is a lot of work, however, we know that everyone is SAFE.

We keep hearing the word "safe" in regards to opening the classrooms to different cohorts. But what does safe really mean? Can you ensure that I am safe when I will see 20 children for 4 days a week, and then come home to a mom who has high blood pressure and diabetes? Can you ensure that I am safe when I come home to my children who both have suffered from asthma since they were babies? Am I safe exposing myself to 20 students as a person, herself, who has had asthma attacks so bad that I was within minutes of dying in the Kaiser ER? Could you guarantee that we are *all* safe?

During the winter season, chances are, we will get sick with colds or even the flu. We try to prevent the flu by getting a flu shot. What about COVID? We do not have a vaccine right now. Many families like mine are at risk of severe complications if any of us catch COVID. Can you ensure our safety? Whenever you turn on the news, pick up a newspaper, or open up a newsfeed from your device, what are the top stories? You know the answer: COVID state and county counts, COVID hospitalizations, COVID deaths, COVID shutting down daycares, COVID affecting whole communities, COVID contracted in a rose garden meeting. Can you ensure our safety? No one can truly be safe until we have a vaccine that everyone has access to. Please consider slowing down the reopening of our classes to keep everyone safe.

Thank you for your time and for taking all of this into consideration to keep everyone safe.

GOOD DAY!

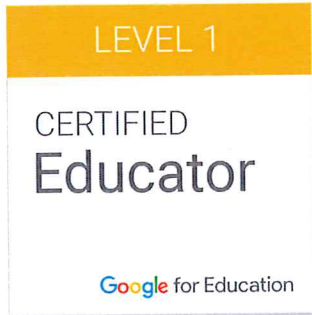
Peace,

 Ali deGuia-Bumgarner 

Teacher/Technology Integration Enthusiast

alideguia.com

twitter: @Msdbcrew @alideguia



Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: adeguia@me.com

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:50 PM

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**10/13 Board Meeting Public Comment Addressing Agenda Item 5.1 (Reopening Schools)**

2 messages

Hildie Sims <hildie.sims@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:54 PM

Dear Miller Creek School District Board and Community Members,

I am writing to you today as a proud Vallecito 5th-grade teacher and parent of a 1st and 3rd grader to address Agenda Item 5.1, the Presentation on Reopening Schools.

The role of an educator has always been that of a fixer, a do-er, and a problem-solver. This has been especially true during our current pandemic; we struggled through the spring, building the boat as we sailed, doing our best to keep our students afloat, even when it meant near-drowning for ourselves. Months later, still in a pandemic, we have taken the time to plan, prepare, and execute a far-improved educational experience. We continually receive and implement parent and administrative feedback to further improve.

While there are many things that I and my incredibly skilled colleagues can fix, here are many we cannot:

- A student arrives at school with no obvious symptoms but was exposed to COVID over the weekend at their neighborhood Halloween street party. This child transmits the virus to another student, their teacher, or aid in the classroom.
- A student's family hosts a traditional Thanksgiving meal and foregoes the holiday and celebration guidelines. They return to school, without getting tested or quarantining, and risk exposure to all.
- A child wakes up with a low-grade fever, is given Tylenol, and sent to school. They are never tested for COVID and may be contagious for weeks following. Their classmates return home and spread the virus to their siblings and parents.
- As we now know, children are asymptomatic carriers of COVID. Based on the current protocol, over 20 Val students can be COVID-positive and the campus remain open until over 5% of our population is infected.

Why are we, as a community, taking SOME precautions but not more? Why are we opening our doors en masse as the waves progress during the peak of cold, flu, and holiday season? How do I ensure that my students are safe when so much is critically dependent upon the non-school activities at home and after school? How can I look one student in the eye, one who has not seen relatives or friends in 7 months, and tell them they are safe next to others who are in far more than 2 stable cohorts and do not practice social distancing?

I refuse to overlook our children's health and ignore dangerous gaps in our current return model. I simply ask that we slow our return, allowing ourselves time to thoroughly evaluate the systems and health protocols in place before welcoming back more students and staff. As medical experts have stated, it can take time for trends to emerge. If we are not regularly tested, how do we evaluate the situation? How do we safely reopen our classroom doors without adequate time between waves to assess our success or failure? These, and many others, are questions we do yet not have answers to, and without them, should not proceed with our reopening.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Hildie Sims

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: hildie.sims@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:54 PM

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Public comment addressing agenda item 5.1

2 messages

Gina Tanner <gina.tanner44@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:54 PM

Public comment addressing agenda item 5.1:

Miller Creek School Board:

An issue regarding Miller Creek Virtual Academy class size was recently brought to our attention. It is our understanding that the district plans to enroll an unprecedented number of students in our combination classes: 29 students in our kindergarten-first-second grade combination, 29 students in our second-third grade combination, and 31 students in our fourth-fifth grade combination. This is unfair to the families who committed to the Virtual Academy from the start and is a clear violation of our certificated contract.

Our interpretation of our current contract is that K-5 combination classes should be no larger than 22 students less than the district average of the lowest grade in the combination. In this case this would be no more than 22 students enrolled in each of our combination classes. We also understand that if this number is exceeded, a one hour per day paid instructional assistant will be provided.

There are several points that must be considered. First of all, a one hour instructional assistant will only add more work for teachers due to the extra planning and explaining that will go into managing said assistant. Furthermore, having an instructional assistant does not balance the workload of having an inflated class size. Secondly, if the district has teachers that do not want to begin the hybrid model, and we have families that do not want to send their children to in-person learning yet, then we should delay the next waves of hybrid, rather than overloading our existing Virtual Academy classes. Or, the district could choose to open more single-grade remote classes and dissolve the combination classes altogether. We have teachers who would be willing to do this. Ask. The fact that many parents want to leave the hybrid model and enroll in the Virtual Academy means that the district is obviously opening the hybrid model too soon. Finally, and most importantly, cramming 29-31 students in our virtual classrooms is not good for students or teachers. This level of enrollment would not happen in-person, so it absolutely should not happen remotely. Students will not receive the level of education they deserve. There is an expectation of quality in our district and clearly this is not it. Please understand that it takes more time and effort to design quality and rigorous remote learning opportunities than it does in-class, and our work has already doubled in our Virtual Academy combination classes. We are working above and beyond our contracted hours and this is simply not sustainable. We are exhausted.

We want our class size to follow our contract with a maximum capacity of 22 students. This would be good for students and teachers. Anything different would be unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Miller Creek Virtual Academy Teachers: Susan Ritscher, K/1/2; Nicole Camarda,
2/3; Gina Tanner, 4/5

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:55 PM

11/6/2020

Miller Creek School District Mail - Public comment addressing agenda item 5.1

To: gina.tanner44@gmail.com

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Reopening schools agenda. Item 5.1

2 messages

Kelly Phipps <kellydunican@hotmail.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 3:00 PM

To: "pubcomms@millercreeksd.org" <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Cc: "mschott@millercreeksd.org" <mschott@millercreeksd.org>, "bnguyen@millercreeksd.org" <bnguyen@millercreeksd.org>,

"mhutchinson@millercreeksd.org" <mhutchinson@millercreeksd.org>, "achacko@millercreeksd.org"

<achacko@millercreeksd.org>, "bhonsberger@millercreeksd.org" <bhonsberger@millercreeksd.org>, Kristy Treewater

<ktreewater@millercreeksd.org>, "brosales@millercreeksd.org" <brosales@millercreeksd.org>,

"superintendentsoffice@marinschools.org" <superintendentsoffice@marinschools.org>, Simon Phipps <phipphead@gmail.com>

We the are parents of three students (Kindergartner at Lucas Valley Elementary, 2nd Grader at Lucas Valley Elementary, 6th Grader at Miller Creek Middle School) and wish to formally express our opposition to Phase 2 of school reopening in our district.

1. Teachers' feet are being held to the fire

The parent community is just now learning that our teachers are scared to go back to in-person teaching and do not support the Phase 2 timeline as it is currently designed. As well as hearing from teachers directly in the past few days, the survey data which was just released on the district website confirms that the vast majority of teachers do not support the timeline either. We are also learning that teachers who are forced to resume in-person teaching may then be forced to take leave/sick days in an effort to keep themselves and their families safe.

2. Lack of transparency

We were led to believe that our teachers were on board with Phase 2, which was a huge deciding factor for us as we went through the decision making process for sending our Kindergartner back. There was a sense of comfort in knowing that if our teachers were comfortable, then we could be comfortable too. But we now know this was not true and there is an uncomfortable feeling of being misled.

Questions

Why were the teacher survey data not shared earlier with families, to help with decision-making?

When will the issue of teachers potentially not returning to in-person teaching be discussed openly?

What happens if our teachers decide to stay safe at home? Does the district have firm contingency plans? If so, what are they?

3. Moving forward

The level of community opposition to the district's re-opening plans is enough to warrant at least a pause for reflection. As the data show, the majority of teachers and at least half of our district's parents do not support the current timeline, which takes us into flu and holiday season.

What we want to see from our board and district is a level-headed, pragmatic approach to reopening, which puts our educators and children front and center. If our teachers are not on board, then what exactly are we left with?

We call you to action, to protect our teachers, to protect our children and to stand with us as the community that elected you in good faith to your positions as board members.

With thanks,

Kelly + Simon Phipps

11/6/2020

Miller Creek School District Mail - Reopening schools agenda. Item 5.1

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 3:00 PM

To: kellyduncan@hotmail.com

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Regarding Agenda Item 5.1 Reopening School

2 messages

A. M. Bumgarner <snoozedoggydog@msn.com>
To: "pubcomms@millercreeksd.org" <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 3:14 PM

Dear Miller Creek Board of Trustees,

Regarding Agenda Item 5.1, it seems folly to rush into a potentially fatal outcome with the cavalier attitude of "Let's see what happens; hopefully no one gets sick and dies" as a result of a hurry to please certain constituents. There is every potential for grievous risk to the health of our teachers and their immediate families and virtually no urgent or critical need to get most students into the classroom. New York and other districts are already backpedaling and trying to deal with the collateral damage of getting back into the classroom too soon. What is so urgent about getting kids back in the classroom that we needlessly would be willing to risk lives?

Sincerely,

Mike Bumgarner

Parent of Miller Creek Middle School student and husband to a Lucas Valley Elementary teacher

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: snoozedoggydog@msn.com

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 3:14 PM

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

PPE for Teachers and Students at Vallecito

2 messages

DeMartini, Craig <Craig.DeMartini@aus.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 3:15 PM

To: "pubcomms@millercreeksd.org" <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Cc: Katie DeMartini <katiedemartini@gmail.com>

To Whom It May Concern –

As a husband of a teacher and father of 2 students at Vallecito Elementary, I wanted to write this email to see where the district is with purchasing the necessary PPE and plexiglass partitions/separators prior to opening more of the hybrid model? Being in the janitorial industry, I am seeing companies and facilities taking the necessary precautions to keep their employees and visitors safe. I am concerned since I am not seeing or hearing the same level of urgency in our Vallecito campus. I know that there are many items and safety protocols that can be put in place that can help protect our teachers and children during this pandemic. It is the districts obligation to do everything in their power to protect staff and students in order to prevent serious illness or even death during this unprecedented time. If there are stones left unturned by the district, I would consider this gross negligence on the districts part. One serious illness or death, especially if one finds that there were other precautions and safety protocols that could have been put in place but were omitted due to budget constraints, lack of research, etc. would be unacceptable. I hope that you would consider reading my email and if you would like to set up a call to discuss I would be more than happy to share what I have seen and protocols my company adheres to in public and private settings.

Sincerely,

Craig DeMartini

Regional Vice President - Operations

Allied Universal Janitorial Services

156 So. Spruce Ave. Suite 213 | So. San Francisco, CA 94080

C: (510) 610-8360 | Email: craig.demartini@aus.com

www.AUS.com | Blog



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Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

To: craig.demartini@aus.com

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 3:15 PM

11/6/2020

Miller Creek School District Mail - PPE for Teachers and Students at Vallecito

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Public Comment on Agenda Item 5.1 (The Reopening of Schools)

2 messages

Phil Curtis <phil.curtis@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 3:23 PM

To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Given the close proximity of Phases 3 and 4 to the Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks, what consideration has been (or *should be*) given to delaying the starts of those phases until after the Winter Break?

We're all anxious to get back to normal. BUT, the benefits of an extra couple of weeks of in-person instruction seem to be outweighed by the risks of sending all of our children back to the school at precisely the same time that some (or many) of us will be expanding our social bubbles over the Thanksgiving break.

That's not meant to minimize the value of in-person instruction. To the contrary, our teacher has been doing a dynamite job with the remote instruction, so we don't feel like we're falling behind. (Shout out to Mrs. Nadelberg!)

If it has not been considered already, I would urge you to consider either delaying the third and fourth phases until January or offering a Phase 5 alternative for those of us who would be more comfortable waiting until after the holidays to send our children back to school.

Regards,

Phil (Vallecito Parent)

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 3:23 PM

To: phil.curtis@gmail.com

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Question for tonight's board meeting

2 messages

Amanda Havel <amanda.havel@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 3:25 PM

To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Hi,

My name is Amanda Levy and I am a parent to a Kindergartner at LVE. With the upcoming Phase 2 reopening set for October 26th, has any research gone into creating outdoor classrooms instead of back to status quo with masks and less kids in a classroom? Being outdoors is shown to be vastly more healthy and safe for people and with our moderate climate well into December, why not start with this safer first step? Shade structures are economical and easy to install. The result would impact both teachers and parents having higher comfort levels with a return to school not to mention the benefits of being outside. With such a large outdoor space on campus the possibilities are there with a little creativity.

Your consideration for this request is greatly appreciated. We thank you for all that you're doing to approach this from a safe and thoughtful perspective.

Best,

Amanda LVE parent

Sent from my iPhone

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 3:25 PM

To: amanda.havel@gmail.com

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MILLER CREEK

School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Comments to the Board

2 messages

Tim Bieser <timbieser@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 3:28 PM

To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

My respectful request is that we are given an option to count how many families would like to stay remote until at least January 2021, and to make that option possible for those who want it if there is enough of a demand. I truly believe that there is.

To be honest it seems most prudent to wait until a few weeks after the winter holidays when we know many people will be traveling, gathering in larger groups indoors, and generally engaging in riskier behavior from a virus perspective. I absolutely support every family's choice to take whatever precautions they feel make sense for them, but everyone's behavior impacts every one of us once our children are in class together. I understand and appreciate that there will be increased cleaning and precautions, but the idea that this time of year especially doesn't pose bigger risks is preposterous.

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 3:28 PM

To: timbieser@gmail.com

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Virtual Academy Class Sizes

2 messages

Elizabeth <earnold49@hotmail.com>
To: Elizabeth <earnold49@hotmail.com>

Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 11:30 AM

Hello Miller Creek District Superintendent, Board Members, and Principals,

My name is Elizabeth Boyd, I have two children attending the Virtual Academy. Lillian is in Mrs. Tanner's 4th/5th grade combo class and Emma is in Mrs. Camarda's 2nd/3rd grade combo class.

I have heard that the school board would like to increase the class sizes of the Virtual Academy, to a much larger class size than the in-person classes. I wholeheartedly disagree with increasing the class sizes in the Virtual Academy.

In the Virtual Academy, the small class sizes are the only benefit that our children are receiving. The small class sizes ensure that each student gets time to talk and to share information without running out of class time, and they ensure that each student gets the attention needed from the teacher.

The extra time and attention that small class sizes provide in the Virtual Academy have been incredibly beneficial to the emotional well-being of the students. This is considered our "in-person" interaction, please do not diminish it.

Regards,
Elizabeth and Joseph Boyd

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: earnold49@hotmail.com

Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 11:30 AM

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MILLER CREEK
School District

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Comment on item 3.6 Ventilation report

4 messages

Ben P <mr.benjamin.peters@gmail.com>
To: pubcomms@millercreeksd.org

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 6:32 PM

There are multiple providers of air ionization technology. The district needs to run a formal bid process and obtain multiple quotes for air ionization and UVC purification upgrades. Cost savings from competitive bidding should be reinvested in mobile air purification systems.

In addition, The HVAC report should address what would happen to HVAC systems if MERV-13 or higher rated filters are installed. How many rooms and schools have the inadequate 1inch filters not rated for MERV-13?

MERV-16 Is the rating for wildfire smoke. The potential for long term impacts to HVAC equipment should be weighed against the near term benefits of healthy and safe indoor air.

I look forward to reviewing:

3.6. Presentation: Ventilation Report by Global Plasma Solutions on Needle Point Bipolar Ionization

Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>
To: mr.benjamin.peters@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 6:32 PM

Thank you for your comments! Please note that we cannot accept any public comments after 3:00 on the day of the board meeting. For board meeting times please visit our website at <https://www.millercreeksd.org/>

Ben P <mr.benjamin.peters@gmail.com>
To: Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 5:31 PM

Would you be able to share the 3.6 PowerPoint presentation

On Tue, Oct 13, 2020, 6:32 PM Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org> wrote:

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Ben P <mr.benjamin.peters@gmail.com>
To: Public Comments <pubcomms@millercreeksd.org>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 4:03 PM

Please send the 3.6 presentation

[Quoted text hidden]