

Monica Roque

From: Jeremy Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 12:05 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment: reopen schools

Categories: Yellow category

DJUSD is the best school district in the state, in my opinion. It's why I moved here when my remote job allowed me to go anywhere else.

Let's have DJUSD continue to lead the state. Be the first to reopen. Be the first to give low income kids structure and lunch again. Be the first to let students grow interpersonally. Be the first to try and get our students caught up.

If students or teachers are concerned, let them stay home. If they want to go to school, let them.

DJUSD is the best around. Now show it. Reopen first and establish for the state how to successfully reopen.

Thank you.

--

Best,

Jeremy Taylor
[REDACTED]

Monica Roque

From: Janice Brehler [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 9:58 AM
To: Superintendent; DJUSD Board of Education; Pippin
Subject: Public Comment for DJUSD Board meeting 1/16/2021

Categories: Yellow category

Dear Esteemed Board and Superintendent Bowes,

Thank you for your hard work and conscientious discussion on reopening our schools. As both a parent and teacher in this community, I am extremely vested in the outcome.

We all care deeply about the health, well-being, and academic development of our children. This discussion about the criteria to return is directly about the welfare of the students and families in our community. Please continue to support the families who cannot access distance learning. Please continue the small cohorts.

For the safety and well-being of all students in our community, please do not reopen until the vaccine is widely distributed, Covid cases are low, the community is masked all the time, and we are safely in Phase 5 of the Reopening Schools Plan.

Davis Joint Unified is student-centered and focused on equitably giving each student what they need. Hybrid models do not give equitable access to education, either in elementary or secondary school, for at least four key reasons I want to ensure you consider. They do not give equal access to instruction, disrupt stability, risk gaps in instruction, and risk exposure and spread of Covid.

In the "Zoom-in-the-Room" model, students who are the minority mode, either distance or in the room, will not receive the same quality instruction or have the same support as the majority mode of students. It is impossible for a teacher to be in two places at once.

In the hybrid AM/PM model or AA/BB days for students with a Distance Learning Academy, students may lose their teacher. Families must understand that. The social-emotional supports and classroom communities that teachers have worked so hard all year to build will be gone. Students may have to change teachers with a few months of school remaining. Stability and routine are key to student social emotional health and well-being and moving to a hybrid model in the remaining school year removes that stability and routine.

Transitioning away from remote learning now also relies on a significant and unreasonable assumption that all classrooms are operating at the same pace. This is not true, nor should it be. Each classroom teacher tailors their instruction based on their students' needs at that moment. Students, if reshuffled, may have holes or gaps in instruction. Hybrid models that require resorting students at this time will deprive equitable access to education.

Hybrid models offer less actual instruction time than what students are receiving today in distance learning. As I have written to you before, the instruction my own children are receiving from their teachers at Birch Lane and Holmes is relevant, meaningful, engaging, and differentiated to meet their needs.

Beyond instruction, the Board needs to clearly communicate to families what happens when their children are exposed to an infection. Even with a vaccine for adults, children still get and transmit Covid-19 to other children and family members. Families will be affected. Other classrooms and school sites will be affected. Families will have to quarantine; families may get sick. This may also impact the ability of parents with jobs outside their homes to go to work.

Please continue to support the families who cannot access distance learning. Please continue the small cohorts. Do not reopen schools to all children until the vaccine is widely distributed, cases are low, the community is masked all the time, and we can open safely in Phase 5 of the Reopening Schools Plan. Please protect the safety of all students and families in our community.

Sincerely,
Janice and Pippin Brehler
Parents of children at Birch Lane and Holmes
North Davis Elementary Teacher

Monica Roque

From: Greg Brucker [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 8:56 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; John Bowes; Matthew Best; Rody Boonchouy
Cc: Kellie Sequeira; Scott Thomsen
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT FOR SAT 1/16 BOE MTG

Categories: Yellow category

Good Morning School Board Trustees and District Administration,

First, I want to acknowledge the position you are in, and send my appreciation, as a teacher and parent in the district. I cannot imagine the weight on your shoulders, knowing that your decisions regarding the opening of classroom buildings could have on the community. I deeply appreciate the depth and nuance of your questions and commentary.

Next, Laura and I are very proud to see our 2 kids learning a lot, and enjoying, their teachers and classes, through this emergency/crisis learning situation. Both love their teachers and love their classes. And at this point in the year, we can clearly see their growth and development. We think their teachers are doing a phenomenal job, and we couldn't be more appreciative of their obvious above-and-beyond work in preparing materials, having wonderful lessons, and in the heartwarming way they work with the kids. We don't all typically get an inside view of the classroom like this, and it has been a treat to get to be a bit of a fly on the wall, if you will. Silver linings, right?

Looking forward into the next months, it is hard to know when conditions may actually be safe enough for us to all be in classrooms. We're being told we're about to head into the darkest time of the pandemic, that we haven't quite seen the peak of the Winter Holidays gatherings, and that by March, the faster spreading strain of covid will be the primary one affecting people. We also just learned that the failure of the Executive Branch with regards to vaccine supply, in that they straight up lied about having more vaccines, and have no reserve right now, leaves us with a far longer timeline until staff vaccinations, less, community vaccinations can happen. With so much uncertainty lasting into the next months, I want to throw out there this food for thought:

Are we wasting valuable time not focusing on how we will restart next year while we are going back and forth with people that want to open the school buildings to all as soon as humanly possible, conditions and risk be damned? Do we want to keep things in limbo, having a settled hybrid concept or not, about whether it is safe to enter schools, rather than looking toward how we can supplement our virtual learning processes now to get through the year?

After all the amazing work has been done by the teachers, staff, and administration of the school district to ensure we are giving the students the best education we can during the worst health crisis this country has seen in 100 years, is it educationally intelligent to have such a drastic change in setting, something that will likely create great upheaval in so many peoples' lives (teachers, staff, and our families in the djUSD), so close to the end of the school year? By current conditions, stats, facts, and trends, and comments by Dr. Sisson locally, we're looking at March to April before conditions may be ok enough to make a switch. But again, do we want to do that right at the end of a school

year and lose those months, again, to a drastic change in process? Or should we re-focus our attention into developing ever stronger educational process, practice, and productivity through an even greater support of current practice, while also putting our further focus into the complicated question of how we will re-open and re-integrate students, staff, and faculty, in Fall?

I leave you with these questions and considerations, as we move forward through this conversation of when and how to re-open classroom buildings.

With my great appreciation for the weight on your shoulders in working to keep our community safe, while working to keep the kids education progressing,

Greg Brucker
Teacher, Emerson/Da Vinci and Harper Jr. High Schools
Parent of a K and Pre-K

Monica Roque

From: Robert V.O. [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 1:35 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT (for 1-16-21 meeting)

Categories: Yellow category

Dear DJUSD School Board,

I am a parent of a fourth and fifth grader in the DJUSD. They miss school dearly. Homeschooling is becoming more difficult by the day, distance learning wasn't working at all, and I don't know what I'm going to do to help my kids learn this year.

Please open schools as much as we can. Current data and research support elementary schools should be in-person. Experts such as Dr. Anthony Fauci say we should do everything we can to get the kids back in school. Our Yolo County Health Officer, Dr. Aimee Sisson, reminded us at the last school board meeting that education is fundamental. Simple Google searches can confirm this. We need to prioritize in-person learning in a way that it is clear we recognize the importance of education for children.

Schools across the world and the U.S. are open. Like Dr. Sisson said at the last board meeting, "...schools have opened safely in California." We should not lag behind the rest of the state, country, and world on this matter. Our risk-benefit analysis of this matter should most certainly be based on current data, research, and recommendations of our public health policy experts. This is not political. If science supports the reopening of elementary schools and our experts do as well, they should be open. Of course, this is in the context of meeting our standards set by the state and county, and also it means providing the recommended safety measures at schools.

A safe return to school for teachers has been demonstrated all across the country and world. I have submitted numerous research studies to this board showing students transmit the virus to teachers at a rate of zero. No, this doesn't mean it isn't possible or that it hasn't happened, but it means we need to consider this at least as a rare occurrence when analyzing the risk-benefit of returning kids to school – again, in the context of the settings explained in the research, which involve using precautions we've seen being taken in the U.S. Research has shown an increasing risk of transmission depending on the age of the student, and as such we should set policy that reflects science. We can open elementary schools. Those students need the in-person education badly.

Parents are concerned about teachers. Parents are concerned about our doctors, nurses, and health care workers as well. Parents are also concerned about all of our essential employees currently going to work in the public every single day. Parents are also concerned about the deterioration of mental health of our kids, and we are concerned about their education. Teachers can go back to school safely. These are the words of our public health policy experts, not mine.

Please open schools as much as you can. Dr. Fauci has said that opening schools should be the default position.

Thank you for all of your hard work.

Robert Van Ostrand

Monica Roque

From: elise [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 12:38 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; Superintendent; Laura Juanitas
Subject: Covid19 Considerations (public comment)

Categories: Yellow category

Thank you so much for your work. Please consider these factors as you contemplate our fate over the next few months:

1) The safety rubric for re-opening must include the science based elements of Covid19 transmission: Ventilation (checking each room for effectiveness of ventilation, as well as the Merv13 filters), Masks that meet high standards and fit well, Distancing (small pods), Time in the schedule for 10 or more minutes of empty room air clearing every hour, opportunity for outdoor teaching. Please cease highlighting the elements that are not evidence based in the decision making. (cleaning, frequent hand washing (which takes a considerable amount of time at 1 sink per room, therefore extending the length of time a group is inside unnecessarily), any other "hygiene theatre") (There are few to no documented cases of fomite transmission in the 94 million cases in the world) (sources: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/op-ed-were-doing-too-much-covid-19-cleaning/> <https://academic.oup.com/milmed/advance-article/doi/10.1093/milmed/usaa548/6040078>)

2) Realistic messaging about what a safe return would actually be like before full vaccination. It will not be very social, and there will be less contact time for most students. Teachers will teach less curriculum content due to teaching and maintaining new routines, getting to know new students, forming new communities, and needing to balance attention between online and in person. The curriculum will also be disjointed for the many students in reshuffled classes. People who want to open cite many articles about districts opening. We teachers have friends in those districts, so we know that most of them feel that it is risking safety for very little return. In most cases hybrid provides a more detrimental situation to distance learning for all parties with confusing schedules, split attention, disrupted routines, and whole families needing to quarantine when their child is exposed &/or brings home Covid19. (<https://www.vox.com/21515864/covid-hybrid-school-learning-remote-plan-pandemic> <https://covidashboard.com/>)

3) Consider the evidence (linked) that this can only safely be done with young children who are 50% less likely to get or transmit the disease. That means that until both adults and students are vaccinated with both shots and the wait time (6 weeks total with Moderna, 4 with Pfizer) the students above adolescence (10ish) should not be in school at all. This becomes even more important in light of the high level of community transmission, highly impacted hospitals, and new more contagious strain. (<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/12/we-now-know-how-much-children-spread-coronavirus/> <https://www.baltimoresun.com/coronavirus/sns-nyt-coronavirus-variant-schools-20210115-n2swrmmbvje3risfc7ylzvtfmq-story.html>)

We are entering into what I call an "Orpheus moment". We are close, the wide world is in sight. We have sacrificed considerably for many months. Please don't throw away that sacrifice with a lack of faith in epidemiological evidence by asking me to risk my health or that of my 16 year old child for a few months of less effective instruction accompanied by six foot socializing. Let's hang on and give the new federal administration a chance to streamline vaccines, ramp up reliable ppe, and hopefully get community transmission down. When we do return, let's make our safety criteria reflect the abundant evidence from around the world on aerosol transmission rather than unreliable hygiene theatre from a compromised C.D.C. I, like all teachers, am painfully aware of the problems with Distance Learning. I am pleased at how much we are able to do despite being in a global pandemic and political turmoil. To pretend that we should be somehow able to deliver the usual high standard of education in this situation is disingenuous, and seems to demonstrate a poor

understanding of all the pieces involved in making school happen. We've pulled together pretty well so far, let's row all the way to shore.

Thank you,
Elise Brewin, DaVinci High Parent and North Davis Teacher

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Elise

Sent from your iFriend

"Ring the bells that still can ring
forget your perfect offering
there is a crack in everything
that's how the light gets in."
Leonard Cohen

Use this free program to make your computer more friendly to your health:
<http://www.stereopsis.com/flux/>

Monica Roque

From: Mark D [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 8:09 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Yellow category

I have a daughter who is a junior at DaVinci High School and she continues to suffer under distance learning. She is a naturally social person and also very competitive. Without the direct contact of her peers she has become very unmotivated in her studies. This is a student that was getting straight A's and is now often struggling. For her sake and for the sake the education and mental health of all the children I urge you to please open up the schools for in-person learning

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Monica Roque

From: Renee Neal
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 4:20 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; John Bowes
Cc: Laura Juanitas
Subject: Public Comment Letter Regarding Return

Categories: Yellow category

Thank you for reading my letter. I appreciate the time.

Renee Neal

Renee Neal


Dr. John Bowes and DJUSD Board Members
DJUSD
526 B Street
Davis, CA 95616

Dear Dr. Bowes and DJUSD Board Members:

I am writing as a teacher and employee of the Davis Joint United School District (DJUSD), and as the parent of two children enrolled in the DJUSD. I urge you to delay returning to normal classroom instruction until a COVID-19 vaccination is widely available to all of the DJUSD's teachers, employees, and students. I ask you to delay reopening the DJUSD to normal classroom instruction based on (1) health concerns; (2) the limited benefits to DJUSD students; and (3) instructional time concerns.

My first concern is for my health, my immediate family's health, and my extended family's health. Currently, my children do not leave the house to go to any stores. My husband and I go shopping only when necessary and we observe every health precaution that we can while we are out. In addition, we help his parents who are older and lack mobility with many of their needs. If DJUSD returns to normal classroom operations before the vaccine is widely available, Me, my children, my husband and our elderly parents will be at increased risk of COVID-19 infection, We have sacrificed by taking every precaution since March 2020, and it would be unwise to risk exposing myself and my family at this 11th hour when the vaccine will be widely available soon.

My second concern centers around the perceived benefits of opening before everyone is vaccinated. One of the main reasons for opening is our students' social and emotional wellbeing. Reopening will not help this on a few levels. If we reopen, students will be reshuffled to different teachers and different classrooms for just the few months remaining in this academic year. This will harm students' social and emotional wellbeing. We teachers work hard to create a sense of belonging and openness and trust in our classrooms. We have spent most of this academic year working tirelessly to foster an inclusive and supportive environment, despite the challenges of remote learning. Suddenly sending children to other classes with a new group of students, will be hard on the kids who have created these new social networks. In addition, ., I do not think students will gain emotional security being in a classroom where they will have to wear masks and remain six feet apart -- especially in the context of an entirely new peer group and teacher for the few short months of this remaining academic year. Finally, teachers, including me, will have difficulty teaching effectively because we will not be able to work in small groups or observe students' work closely because of the six foot distance requirement.

My third concern is regarding instructional time. Currently, my fifth-grade class receives instruction from 8:30-12:00 and then again from 12:30-1:00 with optional office hours afterward from 1:00-1:30. This totals four to four and one half hours of instruction daily. If we reopened now, all students would receive significantly less instructional time, and resource students would have less instructional time still.

Because of these concerns, I have found myself forced to conclude that I would need to keep my own children home for distance learning if DJUSD were to return to classroom instruction before a vaccine is widely available. I know that this will cost both of my children emotional connections with their teachers and classmates ... but I also know that the practical realities of returning to the classroom prematurely would mean that the limited in-classroom experience would present unacceptable health and safety risks to me and my family. These risks would not be justified by any real benefits to returning to the classroom before a vaccine is widely available.

Distance learning is absolutely not ideal, but I and other DJUSD teachers have worked tirelessly over the past months to find innovative ways of connecting with our students, helping them access their learning curriculum, and supporting their social and emotional wellbeing. Our students have adjusted to distance learning, and a premature disruption of their distance learning experience that would provide little benefit but have the potential to put my and my family's health at risk is absolutely not justified. Please listen to the science and help keep us all safe.

Sincerely,

Renee Neal

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Monica Roque

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 1:35 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT from teacher and DJUSD parent

Categories: Yellow category

Greetings DJUSD Board of Education,

I will keep this as brief as possible since I know you are receiving a lot of mail regarding the return to our school campuses. I am the parent of a DJUSD student and teach at Harper Junior High. My perspective as both a concerned parent AND a concerned teacher is one that I think is worth considering. One aspect to all this that I never hear anyone bring up is that teachers simply **will not be able to work** if they are overly anxious and stressed out.

In a recent meeting with teachers, paraeducators and student teachers, I heard extremely high levels of stress being reported. Attendees were in tears and/or close to tears as they shared how it is to be educators these days. Many of us shared what kinds of stressors we were dealing with within our families. Some of us have ill family members. Quite a few of us are taking care of our own children WHILE providing supports to our parents. More than one person mentioned having panic attacks with greater frequency. We all agreed that we are spending an inordinate amount of time on screens and doing our absolute best to create the most engaging and meaningful content for our students.

People who gravitate towards working with kids tend to be very emotionally sensitive. That is a strength in normal times. During a global pandemic, I suppose one could classify that emotional sensitivity as a “weakness” (although I can find many reasons to disagree with that even now). My point is that no matter how much parents want their kids back at school, IF teachers don’t feel safe- they WILL NOT BE ABLE to teach. They will not be able to do their job effectively. Many will refuse to come back to campus and will opt for a leave of absence.

That is not because teachers don’t care or are not brave. Surely Davis teachers are brave! We have continued to teach despite being in a culture that has done little if anything to address gun violence and school shootings. Not to mention we teach in a community whose demographics eerily echo the shootings where the highest fatality attacks occur- [suburban, wealthy, and low minority](#). I bring all this up because as a teacher these days I hear a lot of anger directed at us and our union. Teachers are tired of our work with children and our importance to children’s lives and well-being **never** being prioritized in our country. This struggle has been a part of our reality a long time. Trying to effectively teach, inspire, grade and engage 33 students in a class at a time (while colleagues in other states and countries do the same with 20-24 students) has felt impossible to me and my colleagues for many years, but somehow we keep at it. Our DJUSD families are also now finding themselves in what feels like an impossible situation; they are tired of it and demanding that school districts and teachers fix it. Of course they mean well and, as a parent of a 16 year old, I surely understand their worries.

However, once again, if we do not take every precaution and respectfully listen to what teachers need to do their jobs and feel safe, there simply won’t be enough teachers available to teach kids. This is not a threat; this is the reality of an emotionally sensitive and caring workforce.

Thank you for hearing me out.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Harper Junior High teacher
Davis Senior High parent

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Monica Roque

From: Heather Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:37 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public comment - Why does DJUSD delay school opening when science has proven it safe to do?

Categories: Yellow category

School Board Members.

The science repeatedly and increasingly shows very clearly that schools can be opened safely now with universal masking and distancing as able.

Davis has access to Healthy Davis Together free Covid testing that teachers and staff can access as often as they like.

Governor Newsom has offered additional funds and resources to schools that want them.

Why does DJUSD continue to delay opening? There is no logical reason.

Why do DJUSD messages continue to go out that say “when it is safe to open”? The science shows it is safe to open now. Please start messaging that to parents and teachers. Show that you believe in the science and will help educate the community and teachers about how to be in school safely now.

Why as district leaders are you continuing to delay opening and pushing toward a hybrid option that is complicated and unnecessary when the science shows full in-person learning is safe now?

Help us understand why as parents we should elect you when you aren't sending messages or making decisions that support the children and align with the science of COVID safety?

The children are suffering needlessly.

This article linked below is short but clearly explains the science and medical reasons for pushing toward a full school reopening now. It is supported by numerous medical experts.

I urge and beg you to make the leadership decisions necessary to open schools now. It's most importantly the right thing to do for the kids but also essential to restore community faith in DJUSD as a leader in factual decision making and education integrity.

Respectfully
Heather Martin, PharmD, CDE
Clinical Pharmacy Supervisor
UC Davis Health

https://www.sfexaminer.com/opinion/ucsf-health-professionals-call-for-february-1st-school-reopening/?fbclid=IwAR1mQilo-jeX9p_0Y0pGMF15CBCzMhnIYvejB2DaVpte0ExNMIRzjplnSC8

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Heather Martin, PharmD, CDE, CHWC



Monica Roque

From: Liqing Wang [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:16 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education; Joe DiNunzio; Thomas Adams; Vigdis Asmundson; Lea Darrah; Betsy Hyder
Subject: Comment regarding DJUSD return to campus plan
Categories: Yellow category

Dear Board Members,

I listened through your most recent meeting on January 7th. I would like to offer a few observations.

First, I would like to remind each board member that your role in serving on the DJUSD board is to represent the community, as opposed to representing your personal opinions. The survey results have clearly indicated that the majority of the parents and students would prefer to have some form of in-person learning on campus. You need to make sure the board's position reflects that of the community. I understand how tough it is to negotiate with the labors union. But that's what you have been elected to do - you have all been called to do the best thing for our students! Please take action!

Second, when you hear different voices from the community, you need to separate emotions from facts. I can understand why one group of people are fearful of the community spread of COVID-19, the low ICU capacity, and the seriousness of this disease. I can also understand why the other group are concerned about kids' physical and physiological impacts from isolation as well as the extra burden on parents. However, all of these are emotions. Your judgement needs to be based on facts and facts only. So far I have not heard a single fact connecting in-classroom teaching with community spread and infection to teachers. Instead, all I have heard so far is that numerous highly reputable reports have proved the safety of opening up school campuses and its irrelevant to COVID spread. During the January 7th meeting, I heard one trustee make a comment that "given where Yolo County is, I suppose it's safe to say that now is not a good time to talk about opening our schools". To that trustee, I would like to challenge whether there was any basis for that comment. If we can prove the irrelevant of campus learning to COVID spread, why can't we discuss the plan at this point? Why can't we open schools? I urge you all to focus on facts and not get distracted by feelings and emotions.

Third, I ask that you don't fall into the false belief that keeping schools closed as the least resistance path is the best option for our schools. You really have to think through the long-term consequences of this decision on our students, our community and our schools. Listen to the voice from our own students. Listen to the majority of our parents. Remember how thin the margin was when the last parcel tax was passed? Try to imagine what will happen when the next time the Davis community has to vote for this. Try to imagine what will happen when your positions are up for election next time.

Fourth, I would like you all to consider diversity and inclusion in your decision making process. You are never going to convince all parents to agree on one side or the other. I believe you have to respect opinions from both sides and not let one side overwrite the other. For those parents who would like to keep their children home, please understand there is no reason that you cannot do that even after schools are opened. No one will force any family to send their student to campus if they don't want to. For the same reason, please don't try to force the schools to remain closed so other parents won't be able to send their kids to the classroom just because you prefer to have your kids stay home.

Thank you all for your diligence and courage in working through this challenging situation. We all appreciate your contribution.

Regards,
Liqing Wang
DJUSD parent

Monica Roque

From: Nicole Shinstock [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 3:01 PM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Yellow category

Hello! My name is Nicole Shinstock and I am currently a sophomore at DHS. I'm writing this email on behalf of the student body and the hope for the hybrid schooling platform for the next quarter. I can see where the teachers are coming from when they speak toward the fact that they want to stay online because of the risk of being infected with covid. I also recognize and appreciate their efforts made for us to have an amazing school year. One of the things we know you nor the teachers can do is "walk a mile in our shoes" which at this point would be pretty helpful. Although it may seem like online school is fun and easy but it's really the exact opposite. Every day is the same and it's hard to find the motivation to complete schoolwork, go out and get exercise or even just pay attention in class. Honestly yes I do get more sleep and yes I do have fewer classes but that doesn't make it any less stressful. Many of the friends and classmates I've talked to have less motivation and their grades have dropped. For example, they used to be straight-A students and they have dropped to B's, C's, and even D's.

Almost every adult I talk to tell me that we are going to "get through this together" and our "mental health matters" but it all seems like a joke. During our Wednesday Advisory Period, we do a "mindful minute" which is a great thought but it doesn't really benefit us to have a minute of mindfulness once a week. It's that kind of thing that makes us think of this whole school year more as a joke. We constantly hear that you and the teachers are truly trying to help and that you realize that this is hard but it really doesn't feel like it. It feels as if the teachers put themselves first. I personally constantly hear that it's really hard to grade assignments and you give us fancy difficult formats to use just to make it easier for you when there is absolutely no help or modifications on our side. We get to stay in pajamas all day, eat whenever we want (like chew gum in class), and we can sleep in so what's so bad about that? If you put so much effort into keeping our schooling going and making sure we are all safe during this time, why not put more effort into our mental health? The only people I interact with are my family members. I wake up every day, brush my teeth, eat breakfast, and then get onto my computer. After 3.5 hours of school, I eat lunch and get back onto my computer for one class and at least 4 hours of homework. I then go out to go on a short bike ride, eat dinner, finish up some homework, and then go to sleep. I do that 5 days a week and on the weekends, I do school work, stay inside, and try to figure out what else I can do with my time. My point is that there's no motivation, there's no change, there's not really any social interaction, and there's really no excitement anymore.

I feel (and I know many of my peers feel this as well) as if having a hybrid school platform would benefit us greatly. Some of the more academic advantages would be that we can actually interact with our teachers face to face and that we would be in a school environment which would help our motivation and overall focus. I know that students will greatly benefit from this. It would provide a change to our everyday routine and having that change is very helpful and beneficial to our mental health. Another benefit is that, as you know, Davis is a huge bike town, and having students convert to hybrid for the 3rd quarter would force us to get on our bikes and ride to and from school. Even for the students that drive, it gets us out of our house and into the fresh air. With a mask of course.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Nicole Shinstock

Monica Roque

From: Madeleine Hayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 11:26 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Yellow category

Hi! My name is Maddie Hayes, and I'm a sophomore at DHS. I'm writing with regards to returning to partial in-person school this next quarter. I understand that teachers are doing the best they can right now, as are students, but not all teachers can step into our shoes and know what's really happening with the majority of us. While it's true that online school brings a lighter workload for us, that doesn't mean it's any less stressful or any more relaxing. So many of my peers, myself included, are struggling to find the motivation and focus to complete their work adequately. Students I know who got straight A's up until the pandemic are now getting B's and C's. Some of my classmates are managing the current situation better than others, but I know all of us are feeling the strain. Yes, we can stay in our pajamas all day. Yes, we can sleep in more. But we can't interact with our peers, we can't get as much help from our classmates, and we feel like we can't really connect with our teachers, either. I know many of my peers right now are feeling stressed, anxious, and even depressed.

Things are stressful for everyone, teachers and students. We're in a challenging, unprecedented situation right now. But if there is anything you can do to bring us some semblance of normalcy, even just being back at school, fully protected, for a few days a week, I think we could all benefit from it.

Thank you so much.

Maddie Hayes

Monica Roque

From: Robert Oldham [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 9, 2021 10:18 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Subject: Public Comment

Categories: Yellow category

Members of the board,

You alone hold the power to allow our children to return to in-person schooling, children that have been locked out of school for more than eight months and endured tremendous hardship in the process. Clearly, there are two factions dug into their respective views that children should be allowed to return or they shouldn't be.

One group is requesting an option for students and families to return to some form of in-person schooling. The other group, on the contrary, seeks to actively prevent children from returning to school, interacting with peers, teachers, and engaging in extracurricular activities.

The group opposed to school opening is led by Teachers Unions and their advocates. In the latest meeting, DTA president Diana Stromwell downplayed the social needs of children and indicated that reopening schools would not solve any problems. This view held by Diana and her union is consistent with CTA opposition to both AB-10 and Governor Newsoms' "Safe schools for all" plan. A recent article from the San Francisco Chronicle indicates that moving teachers to the front of the vaccine line may not be enough to reopen schools. It appears that unions will mandate zero to near-zero local cases and make egregious demands such as toilet modifications before consenting to come back to school. In summary, this anti-school group is stonewalling and has no interest in returning to in-person schooling this academic year and beyond.

The pro-choice group, on the other hand, is a community-led coalition of parents advocating for the social, academic, and emotional needs of DJUSD students and families. Unfortunately, this group has not been fairly represented in board meetings, as evidenced by an obvious lack of live parent representation during reopening discussions and talks of omitting public comment. This groups' request is simple: provide an in-person learning option when state and local conditions allow.

The most disturbing part of the reopening proceedings may have been the recent cross-questioning of Yolo county public health officer Dr. Aimee Sisson, particularly by trustees Asmundson and Darrah. If her expertise isn't sufficient, perhaps they should consider the advice of Dr. Fauci, the CDC, UNICEF, WHO along with data from schools thriving in our town, state, country, and across the world. Most recently, incoming Ed Secretary Dr. Cardona professed that "Our kids deserve better. History has its eyes on us".

The question then arises, does the boards' values align with the group promoting indefinite school closures or does the board support a safe in-person learning option for students? Your actions over the next few weeks will be telling.

-Bob Oldham (parent of two DJUSD students, for now)