



**WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**October 22, 2020**

Consistent with the Shelter in Place orders from the Governor and Yolo County, this meeting was compliant with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, which allowed for a deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act. In-person attendance was not permitted. The meeting was available for live stream viewing, and recordings are available at <https://livestream.com/wjuds> (click on the Board Meeting date).

Attendance Taken at 5:00 PM:

Present:

Morgan Childers  
Debbie Decker  
Rogelio Villagrana  
Jake Whitaker

Absent:

Deborah Bautista Zavala  
Teresa Guerrero  
Karen Rosenkilde-Bayne

Updated Attendance:

Deborah Bautista Zavala was updated to present at: 5:02 PM  
Karen Rosenkilde-Bayne was updated to present at: 5:02 PM  
Teresa Guerrero was updated to present at: 5:26 PM

**A. CALL TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION - 5:00 P.M.**

Minutes:

The Board President called the meeting to order in Open Session at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom and the meeting was live streamed and recorded via Vimeo Livestream.

**A.1. Pledge of Allegiance**

Minutes:

The Board Vice President led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **B. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA - ACTION**

**Roll Call Vote - Motion Passed:** Motion was made to approve the agenda. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Debbie Decker.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala

Yes Morgan Childers

Yes Debbie Decker

Absent Teresa Guerrero

Yes Karen Rosenkilde-Bayne

Yes Rogelio Villagrana

Yes Jake Whitaker

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA (Please fill out the Public Participation Form) Members of the public are encouraged to attend Board meetings and to address the Board concerning any item on the Special Board Meeting Agenda. Individual speakers shall be allowed three minutes each to address the Board on Special Board Meeting Agenda items. The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each item to 20 minutes. This is a comment period only, and the law does not allow the Board of Trustees to take action on any item not explicitly posted on the agenda in advance. However, Board members may ask for clarification, briefly respond to questions, refer concerns to staff, and/or request that an item be placed on a future agenda.**

Minutes:

Please see the attached public comments.

## **D. TEACHING AND LEARNING**

### **D.1. Study Session: Discussion of Phase 3 of WJUSD's Reopening Plan**

Minutes:

The Study Session item "Discussion of Phase 3 of WJUSD's Reopening Plan" was presented in a PowerPoint presentation by Superintendent Tom Pritchard, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Elodia Ortega-Lampkin, Associate Superintendent of Business Services Lewis Wiley, and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Leanee Medina Estrada.

The Board recessed the meeting at 6:58 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 7:08 p.m. The Board recessed the meeting at 9:05 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

The Board directed staff to prepare options for Full Blended Learning for Phase 3 for all grade levels, and a Study Session will be scheduled in November for the Board to

consider the options.

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

Minutes:

The Board President adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

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BOARD CLERK

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BOARD PRESIDENT

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**October 22, 2020**  
**Public Comments**

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I am a para professional in the SDC ASD preschool program at Maxwell Elementary. I am soooo ready to return and work in person with the kiddos. However, I am concerned with the return date being just a week after halloween which is not enough time to tell if an outbreak will rise due to trick or treating. I would feel better if we'd wait until after the Thanksgiving break to see how well people adhere to precautions during the Halloween holiday. If they do well on this holiday then they'll probably do well on Thanksgiving as well(I hope). I am in no way trying to get out of going to work as I work everyday online. However there is NO WAY that we will be able to social distance with 3&4 year olds on the Autism Spectrum. We also need to change many of their diapers( no social distance there!), help them wash their hands, help wipe their noses and possibly try to keep masks on them -probably to no avail. I do not feel safe for many reasons, but just today I had a conversation with our head custodian and she said that her cleaning process is no different than before covid. She cleans each room with the same towel and there is no special cleaning solution being used, just what we already had. She said that our room will only really be cleaned once a week and the other days they are told to just vacuum if needed and empty the trash! REALLY? I'm tempted to by my own fogger and covid disinfectant to sanitize our room daily. I know I'm not supposed to, but after hearing this I DO NOT FEEL SAFE. I also was told by my principal that once we start, even if we go back to purple, we would still be required to go in person! This doesn't make sense. That is why I'd really like you to consider holding off until after the Thanksgiving break to open for Special Education, especially since cases are starting to rise again. God bless and keep you all healthy.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Howard

Para Pro II Maxwell ASD SDC preschool

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Board members and district leadership:

I am concerned the logistics of the proposed phase 3 schedules for elementary have not been appropriately vetted.

I teach kindergarten at Woodland Prairie. I have 26 students. I am currently teaching from my classroom and directly in front of my computer screen. I regularly use my document camera and computer to share documents, books, music, and videos. I hardly ever leave my position. I am always directly in front of my computer.

I am unsure how I will be able to provide instruction in this same manner to my class when half of them (13 students) are physically sitting at their tables and the other half (13 students) are at home in front of their chromebooks? How do I move around my room to help? How do I transition my physical students to other activities and locations on campus? What happens to the kids at home when I have to constantly step away from the computer?

And then the other schedule where half the students are in class and the other half are completing asynchronous activities? That is doubling my planning and prep load. You are essentially asking me to plan and prep lessons and work for two separate classes. My kinders need a teacher during the day. Moving from phase 1 to phase 3 is essentially cutting their live class instruction in half.

Both these schedules have some serious faults that are going to negatively impact teachers, students, and families.

Thank you for your time.

Sara Birtcil  
Kindergarten Teacher  
Woodland Prairie Elementary

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Board Members-

I am very concerned about the proposed schedules for phase 3 learning. I teach science at Douglass Middle school. If we were to adopt the first proposed schedule for middle school in which we streamed lessons, I would not be able to circulate my classroom to assess learning, provide instruction, or manage behavior because I would need to stand in one place and lecture. That simply isn't good teaching. If we were to adopt the second proposed schedule for middle school in which students would do asynchronous learning on the days they were not in school, I would need to plan nearly twice as many lessons in order to teach both groups of students. Either plan will provide an extremely poor quality of education, not something I am ok with for my students. They deserve the best and this isn't it.

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Good evening Superintendent and School Board,

First thank you for all your efforts and tireless hours over the last few months. Thank you double to trustee Decker who was the only board members to respond or acknowledge my concerns regarding distance learning (an email was sent to all). Her caring response gave me a breath of fresh air and her efforts should be applauded.

Second, please reopen the schools. As a teacher at woodland Christian School we have been successfully in the classroom full time with students since late August. Due to our great mitigation efforts and following all protocols I have not heard of any cases of covid within our school!! It can be done!! Reach out I am sure our team would kindly share tips and tricks. I do understand we are a smaller scale school compared to the many schools in the district, but look and focus individually at each school as you prepare.

In addition, please reassess how instruction during distance learning is being delivered. I have talked to countless families who are overwhelmed with the synchronized learning time. And

even more (myself included) with the workload. These kids are behind screens all day. As an educator I can tell you 1) this is not best practice and 2) there are better ways, even during distance learning. (Hands on projects!!! Book work!!! Old fashioned WORKSHEETS!! Break it up a little please!)

Back to reopening- please consider moving to this as soon as possible. Please encourage staff to plan to get families on the same schedules, create a system and process through which families can apply to be on the same schedules as their daycare providers for pickup and care purposes. Put families and students as a top priority.

Teachers- we love you! You are rocking this despite the circumstances. Your time has come to shine in a new light. The hybrid model! You got this!

Thank you!  
Amanda Young

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Good Evening Members of the Board,

My name is Jenna Myers and I am a History 7/ AVID Excel 8 teacher at Lee Middle School. The task in front of you is not one that I envy. I want so badly to be back in the classroom with my students, to be able to see their faces, work with them one on one, and bring back the in-person learning that we are all missing. This has been by far one of the most challenging experiences in my 14-year teaching career.

I need to be realistic though that just putting kids in a classroom with a teacher is not going to make every back to normal. What I am missing is a collaborative, lively class, with students talking to each other and moving around the room but I know that this is not what phase 3 will look like. What is realistic is students sitting in desks 6 feet apart, not able to get up, work in groups, pick up a shared marker or even face each other. Under the safety guidelines, I will not be kneeling on the floor next to them, helping them work through a challenging concept, but instead will be standing at the front of the room trying to help from there.

I am deeply concerned about how students will be supported when they are on the remote learning days in the hybrid model. In our 100% virtual learning classes, I am constantly checking in with kids individually, trying to meet the needs of my students on IEPs, support language acquisition for my English Learners and to entice reluctant students to engage in our content. There is not a moment in our 75-minute classes that I am not giving them by 100% attention. It is not possible to do this, while at the same time working with students who are live in the classroom. Imagining that 7th graders will sit in front of their screen watch a live class that they are not involved in is just not realistic. Imagining that students will not be overwhelmed by an asynchronous to-do list is not realistic. I would love to end this by giving you the perfect answer, but I know that that does not exist. Instead, I am going to ask to please think about your experience observing virtual classrooms, what are hearing from the people who are actually in the trenches trying to make this work, and what will make the health and

safety of our students and staff a priority. Thank you for taking the time to listen, and I wish you luck tonight!

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Dear Trustees,

In the grand scheme of things, and with no viable vaccine currently, we are still in the early-middle stage of the pandemic. Just this morning it was reported on the news that cases in Yolo county are beginning to rise again as a result of more businesses recently opening up. It would be irresponsible to begin moving back towards in person learning at this time.

If the status of our current case level is on the rise, moving to phase 3 only to inevitably have to close again puts unnecessary stress on students and teachers. It adds to the anxiety of the unknown that we are all already feeling about what's to come and what could happen. We are all starting to settle into our new normal of distance learning and the more care and consideration we continue to give to our current phase 1 model, the better off students will be. Yes it is challenging, no it is not ideal, but it is the safest response to the current state of our world.

We need to protect the safety of our students. We cannot do that if we don't also consider the safety of our teachers. What is the plan for enforcing social distancing, mask wearing, and responsible hygiene throughout campus among students and staff alike, in the classroom and common areas, during passing period, before and after school? There are so many human variables, so how can we truly prevent the spread of the virus without a vaccine? What will happen to the consistency of routine for students if they end up with subs because their teachers are unable to perform their duties in person, or become sick? In the long run, consistency and safety is better for our students than an impossible or poorly planned return to school, just for the sake of in person learning.

The blended model as it is currently drafted is going to be extremely difficult for teachers to manage. How can we be expected to manage and teach two completely different groups of students with completely different variables at the same time? How can I ensure group B is accessing the material virtually while also helping group A do the same in person? It is physically impossible to give our attention to two subgroups simultaneously, meaning each set of students would suffer.

Yes in person learning is ideal and a blended model allows for that. None of us became a teacher so we could sit behind a computer screen all day and not interact with students in person; in fact this aspect of distance learning is the complete opposite of why many of us actually enjoy and excel in teaching. But the benefit of introducing some in person learning will mean nothing if the model is unrealistic, if our students and teachers become sick, if our county case numbers continue to rise again, and if we end up having to transition back to a full distance learning schedule anyway.

Please consider the safety of our students and teachers. Safety in routine, and safety in physical and mental health. Please allow us all to continue working together to overcome and improve the challenges of distance learning before introducing a whole new set of challenges, stress, and fear that is inevitable with the move towards the district's phase 3 blended learning model.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Emily Stewart  
Teacher, Lee Middle School

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We need to get these kids back in class!

I have 4 children, 3 of which attend school in the WJUSD school district. Both parents work full time jobs and have to hire family to help supervise the children while we are at work. We do this because our jobs need us and we cannot survive on unemployment!

My 4 year old is in state preschool at Gibson and they have been distance learning for 45 minutes a day Monday through Friday since August. This is not preschool. I don't think I need to explain all the reasons this is wrong to expect a 4 year old to thrive or even survive in this kind of environment. He is in preschool for the social interaction. I'm highly regretting my decision to remove him from private preschool in order to take advantage of the no/low cost state preschool run by the district.

It should be a crime that you're taking tax dollars for ALL DAY preschool for and offering 45 minutes of Zoom instruction.

As a parent and a taxpayer I am pleading that you let these kids back in class in smaller cohort groups. Small groups of 10 student or less that stay with 1 teacher all day is my proposed solution. You could alter this for the older grades. But they need to be in class tomorrow or ASAP, not January, not March. Soon!!

We are moving out of the state if things don't improve soon.  
Thank you,  
JeniLynn Newton  
Parent at PHS, LMS and Gibson elementary

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Thank you for taking the time to listen to parent concerns in regards to the current status of distance learning and reopening schools.

As a parent of two elementary students, and the Aunt for two others who are in my care; I want to make sure you all are aware of the difficulties these children have experienced while learning through technology and not in person.



I have seen in person the tears. I have seen in person the frustration. I have seen in person the sadness of not being on campus in which all of these children love. I have seen the constant questions, "when can we go back to school?" "Will I ever see my kindergarten class?" "When will this end?" "When can I see my friends?"

I have seen in person the desperate comments from children 10 and under. "I DONT UNDERSTAND!" "I miss my teachers!" "I need help" "my computer froze"(make that known that is happens 20 times a day or more). "This is too hard" My teacher cant see or hear me". "I dont like school anymore!"

Our children are NOT being heard! They need to go back to class!! I dont care if it's just a little bit of time for the week, it needs to be something. I am not a teacher. I am a mother. I am an Aunt. There is no way to successfully distance teach without parents doing the majority of the teaching. This is not fair.

Please. I beg you. For the mental health of our future generations, get them in class.

Thank you,  
Shelby Berriman

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Dear WJUSD board,

Please follow the science!! Study after study has proven that COVID does NOT spread at schools.

We all know that distance learning is a complete failure and the kids are falling behind. The availability of PPE's is no longer a factor as masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer etc is readily available.

Teaching our kids is essential and important as any job out there. Please start in class learning so the kids don't fall further behind.

Thank you!!  
Steve Rosen  
Woodland Ca

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Hey Woodland Joint Unified School District! Do you see my child?! Do you see how he used to be a happy child, who loved to learn NO you don't you see a depressed & angry child who hates school!

It's time to come together and start voicing that our kids need to be back in school!

Essential workers have been working the entire time this pandemic has been going on. I am surely not the only parent who believes our children's education, is in fact, ESSENTIAL! The

school system will have had over seven months to hire more custodians to do extra cleaning. That's what the essential workers are doing during the day, cleaning the high traffic/high use areas.

They will have had seven months to hire extra people to ride with school bus drivers to take temperatures before the children step foot on the bus. Our officials have had time to come up with ideas on how to get our children back in school full-time. Do you really want your children to continue to fall behind with "remote learning?" If you have a child that is in elementary, middle school or the early years of high school, they still need to retain all the information they are learning! They are still building their education a piece at a time. They need face-to-face interaction. They need to SEE and HEAR what they've been taught; every day.

Think about it folks, before educators wanted your kids at school EVERY DAY, unless they were sick. It was pertinent to your child's education for them to be present!! Don't sit around!! It's time to get attention!

It's OK for the public pools to pack in kids and parents. It's ok for "essential worker" daycares to be in please. It's ok for private schools to run. It's ok to stand in lines at a packed Walmart. It's to march shoulder to shoulder with protesters. Why is it not all right for our children to go to school full-time?

Our children's education is just as important and essential.

You don't agree, that's ok-keep your kids home and continue distance learning. Just like if you are not ok with going back to "normal"that's ok you can stay home!

Teachers-they are amazing! They are working beyond what is expected of them. They are hero's, rock stars! This isn't anger towards them this is me having a voice for our children!

I know A LOT of teachers that are being called the problem, they say this is false! Their union rep needs to step it up!

This was a letter to our community-I hope you listen too.

Sincerely a very upset & concerned parent,  
Emily Tidwell

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Good Morning,

Yolo County has been in the red tier for 23 days now. It is time to open up our schools. The district has had plenty of time to prepare and it isn't fair for our kids to be suffering due to their inability to plan accordingly.

Private schools within our county as well as public schools in neighboring counties have welcomed students back. It is time. Let the children go to school.

Thank You,  
Christina Brookshire

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To whom it may concern:

I write today as a concerned parent of a Dual Language Kindergarten Student at Dingle Elementary School.

Although I felt my daughter was finding some success, enjoyment, and education in the beginning weeks of distance learning, I can see that the newness has worn off and she is suffering. My main concern is academics. She is participating in the lessons as best she can... but there is no retention of information. It's been weeks and she can't answer simple questions I ask her about letter sounds and shapes, etc, even though I see her teacher repeating, repeating, repeating. I honestly feel like the only way the kids at this young age group are going to LEARN (not just listen and participate) is if parents take it upon themselves to 'home school' in a sense. I've gone this route on days when I can afford the time to do so, but that isn't a long term solution. Our kids NEED to be in a traditional classroom environment. Not a You Tube / Screen Time environment.

My husband and I worked hard to keep screen time at a minimum for our children, based on countless studies showing the adverse effects. Studies supported by educators. Now we live by the computer. It just feels wrong that we are subjecting our children to this when the rest of our community is pretty much operating Business as Usual. I would love to see the district explore ideas that other businesses have used to navigate these times, specifically outdoor classrooms. The beautiful fall weather is here, why can't the kids gather on the expansive lawns of our schools? There is a safe way this can be done, and it is modeled by the surrounding schools and local preschools that ARE doing it. My younger daughter is attending Great Day Preschool and enjoying the benefits of socialization, learning and play in a safe environment. Of course, that comes at a cost.

Which brings me to my next point... the private schools being open and the public schools just coasting along being unopened borders on becoming a political and social issue. The tensions and division in our community is happening. The divide between the have and the have nots is only growing. It's not fair.

Let's work together to make this happen!! TEACHERS ARE THE MOST ESSENTIAL WORKERS in our community. Let's put the mental health of our people, children and parents, FIRST. I've spent years getting my daughter excited about learning and school and now each morning I have to force her into a chair in the corner of my home. She does not think learning or school is fun and this breaks my heart.

Emily Murphey

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Please get these kids back in school ASAP! My boys need the social interaction with their friends and the ability to have one on one conversation with their teachers if they have a question on an assignment. I have seen my youngest test scores lately and they are lower than they would have been if he was in school. The teachers don't have the ability to explain everything due to the limited time with the kids if they were in class there would be more time and kids would not be getting such low grade scores. Distance learning is NOT working. You are failing our kids the longer you keep them home. Please move to the next phase and get the kids back in school with their teachers.

Thank you,  
Diana

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Hello,

I am not in favor of opening the schools any time soon. I think this is a big mistake. I revert back to science (the field I work in), and it says that viruses can mutate making it hard to make a vaccine. Let's put that into perspective. If we start opening the schools now, by the time we have a vaccine it will be ineffective, because it has already mutated. I think waiting a little longer to ensure that our kids are going to have some immunity once a vaccine is put into play then so be it.

People live in the moment way too much. You have to think in the future with this virus. If your child, god for bid, comes down with it then parents will most likely come down with it as well. The kids have a higher percentage of recovering, on the other hand parents are more likely to have complications (we know age plays a role in how this virus affects people). Let's think about that for a minute. I know several families with school age children that are being raised by grandparents. Who will care for those kids when they are in the hospital?

Let me tell you my family has been hit hard by COVID. We have lost 2 family members to the Virus and one to mental health (due to being isolated). My family has been through the down side of this pandemic. So, I am speaking and pleading, be considerate and respect parents rights to disagree with reopening. We are trying to keep our children safe. And listen to the doctors, they are "highly" recommending getting a flu vaccine this year, know it is because if you contract one or both of these viruses (because you are likely to contract one or the other weakening your immune system allowing your body to be invaded by disease) one is going to probably take your life.

Going back to school anytime soon, especially in the middle of flu season, seems to be a very unbalanced approach putting families at risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Sarah

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We need to open schools up and get back to education our children. Distant learning is NOT working and our kids education and mental health is very much at risk!

Micaela

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Trustees,

You have been elected by the public, not our superintendent or the unions. You have been elected to represent my children. I understand the complexity of navigating the union environment and I understand the stress associated with trying to partner with a leader (our superintendent) that constantly tells you we need to move slow or something won't work. But please, we beg you, as the public servant that was elected to represent the people, please fight hard to get our children back in school immediately. This must stop, our children must go back to school.

You've had one health care provider help guide your decision. However, that does not represent whole person care. Where is the clinical expert that will prove that the social and emotional trauma our children are facing far exceeds the negative implications the infectious disease doctor described.

Please allow me to paint you a picture. My child lives in a loving home with two working parents. We are your stereotypical happy family. We have food on our table and coverage to guide our son through this process. Prior to online school my son had never used a laptop and never used an ipad or phone. How's he doing with online school? He's doing okay. With Mrs. Richter at Zamora, he's learning every day. She has amazed me at how she cares for the children and does everything in her power to engage the children and make learning fun. We are at an advantage because, as a kindergartener, my son does not have a point of reference of what schools should be. We have never spoken negatively at home about his schooling and everything is "rainbows and butterflies" as far as what has been discussed around him. Here's the problem. Here's where I need you – my elected official – my son who was thriving is beginning to withdraw from this process. He frequently does not have the ability to focus. Does he know his ABC's – yes. His social skills are beginning to fault. He needs in-classroom education to lay the foundation, at this pivotal age, on how to be a good working member of our society. There are lessons I simply can't teach him at home. He needs hands on (not computer) learning of how to work with a team of children. How to engage with folks he does not know. How to make friends. How to be respectful and confident in an uncomfortable environment. Simple experiences of how to navigate a school campus while his parents aren't around.

Why did I paint this picture for you? Because I see the irreversible damage being done to my child that has a stereotypical "good" family. I want you to think of the children that do not have this support. The ones who don't have parents that will write to and advocate for change. The children that are in a home alone all day. Think of the children who are scared, alone, and do not have someone to love them because their school environment was the only stability they

had. Think of the children that have learning disabilities. Think of the children who have parents so frustrated and upset that school will forever be associated as a negative.

Please, we beg you, be solution finders and do everything in your power to get every child back to school. We need a date, a light at the end of the tunnel, give us something to hold on to. The future of our community is in your hands as the long term effects from children not being in school will be with our community for years and years to come.

Is this a moment in time – yes. But I know the damage being done to my child’s mental wellbeing will have lasting effects that cannot be reversed.

Do as all parent poll winnings have directed and as the overwhelming number of teachers have requested. Please provide us with some type of in-person learning immediately.

With respect,

Seth & Katie Curran  
Parents of Parker Curran, Kindergarten, Zamora Elementary

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Goodmorning my son is a 9 th grader at pioneer high school we have had several issue's with distance learning this year so far my son loves pe and struggling this year with it and begging not to do it not this is a concern to me they are not teaching our kids about pe but about inappropriate things such at this link they had to watch and learn about animal abuse <https://youtu.be/1JUn8MsEyPs>

My son called me and said he really didn't want to do his assignment because it was to hard to watch so I asked him to send me the link its a video about playing soccer with dead goats and who can thr them into a bowl how is this pe how is this ok to teach our kids animal abuse is ok. My son begs me to just go outside and do sports why can't we as parents keep a log instead of teaching them pointless things to just give them screen time I contacted the principal about this video and she agreed it was not ok to show this video but are we questioning why he thought it was ok to show our kids this? Something has to change i understand both sides about going back to school and not but has to be a way to safely return back even part time for our kids mental health. Thank you for listening to my concerns and look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter

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Hello to the board and administration of WJUSD,

I am writing to let you know my disappointment over the decision to not mail grades for the first progress report home from Woodland High School (and possibly Pioneer?).

This distance learning stuff is tough enough, without having to hope that parents will, on their own hook, navigate to Aeries to see the grades that their student earned during the first six weeks of school. Relying on them to hear that grades were posted (somehow), have signed

up for Aeries, be able to remember a password that they may not have used for a while, and then figure out how to navigate to the grades is too much.

It would be easier and more effective to mail grades home as was the usual practice (yes, it was done for more than the semester). The schools and district have the money for the postage, they also have a duty to inform parents in the most effective and efficient way. A lot of parents have had a lot to say about the lack of communication from WJUSD schools and admin, and we already over-rely on electronics for communication in the COVID world. This is especially hard on our EL students' families, as they are the least likely to have access.

Please have the schools take another look at not mailing grades home. We are doing families a disservice if we do not...simply because we are requiring them to sign up to see information that is legally due them...

Mike Owens  
Teacher  
WHS

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WJUSD School Board members,

Now is the time to put an actual plan into action that allows our children to be educated inside of a classroom surrounded by their peers. My son is a high school sophomore at WHS. As a freshman, he was excelling academically and was thoroughly involved in fall baseball and winter weight conditioning in preparation for spring baseball. He was happy, liking his teachers and his classes, and enjoying his time with the many new friends he had made. He developed a bond with his baseball teammates and his coaches, and he truly enjoyed all of it. He was active, learning, and kept busy. When COVID first hit, he tolerated distance learning in the spring. He attended classes, did his work, paid attention, etc.. However, since the start of THIS school year, he tells me daily that its "terrible" and he is learning nothing. How is he supposed to be prepared for college IF he's not learning the basics now? Kids in Texas and other states are back to school - what is his future going to look like in comparison to other students like him from those states? He is at a huge disadvantage. He is not being adequately educated with what is going on right now.

Furthermore - he misses baseball. He can't even go ONTO the field to play catch with a friend or hit some balls. It is ridiculous that the fields are locked up with chains. Seriously? These kids are expected to sit inside of their houses in front of a computer screen for 5-6 HOURS, but they can't go outside to get some exercise with a sibling or friend to throw a baseball on the school field?

I truly hope SOME plan is put in place and actually executed very soon. Keeping these kids out of school for this long is detrimental to their brains and bodies.

Kym Stapleton

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I am a parent of a 5th grader at Plainfield and 7th grader at Lee. I hope the board moves forward to put the kids back in school. We need some normalcy back in our lives. They need to be around friends and to be in class. Enough is enough. Open up our school.  
Chelsea Rathjen

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To whom it may concern,

In regards to your meeting tonight related to phase 3 reopening of schools, I have a few comments I'd like to make:

Distance learning: It's ineffective. Kids are falling behind in their education and experiencing social impacts that we don't yet know the extent of. We have a top of the class student who is scoring a C average this year. I can only imagine the kids that don't have a parent home with them to help. It's unacceptable.

Safety: Studies are showing the transmission rates among students and teachers in areas of the country that schools are open is low.

Kids moving out of public school: How many students will it take to move to private schools locally before you decide it's "safe?" I'm told Zamora alone has lost a number of kids this year to Woodland Christian and others. We are awaiting word to move ourselves because the public school system has failed us.

Essential workers: Though someone didn't include teachers on the list of essential workers, they should be. They should be in the classroom and many want to be. If I can shop at some big box store elbow to elbow with other shoppers, dine in a restaurant, sit in a confined space on an airplane, teachers can teach in person. Give those at higher risk the option to distance teach as there will be some families that choose to keep their kids home.

At what point are the best interests of our kids at the center of your decision? Their risk is extremely low and as a parent, I'm comfortable with the risk. Does the teacher's union understand that as kids move out of public school (see above point), the school district's budget declines? Meaning less demand and budget for teachers. Your budget will likely be hit hard in the coming year(s) already due to the unnecessary shutdowns.

Please, get the kids back in school.

I am writing as the concerned parent of a 1st grade student at Zamora Elementary. Distance learning has been extremely difficult on my child and our entire family. As two working parents we do not have the luxury to stay home and help and guide our child through daily distance learning. As a 1st grader she is not old enough to stay home by herself. Our parents still work full time jobs as well so we do not have anyone who can stay full time with our child. Our only option was to enroll her in a program where she can go during the day with other students



(through the City of Woodland). I am still confused why it is ok for her to sit in a classroom with other students at the Community Center but not at Zamora Elementary? Being in first grade she is just now learning what it means to have daily instruction and work she is responsible for completing but unfortunately she has no one with her during the day to keep her on task and she suffers. The teacher is doing her best to engage the children but there is only so much they can do from behind a computer screen. At the Community Center there is one person in charge of 10 or more students with different schedules, different teachers and different schools. It is impossible for them to know what all of the students are supposed to be working on. As such, I have learned that my child has missed more than an acceptable amount of class time. On top of everything else my child has been recently diagnosed with ADHD combined with Social Anxiety and Generalized Anxiety disorder. Unfortunately the staff at the Community Center are not equipped to deal with this diagnosis and I feel it is nearly impossible for her to receive the help she needs from the school at this time. We are spiraling into a place that will soon lead my child to utter despair and the wrong type of attitude toward school and learning that will follow her for years. Children need to be in class. There are proven measures for protection (masks, cleaning protocols) that I do not believe are impossible to implement and follow. I believe the programs at the Community Center and the YMCA have proven that kids will wear their masks all day. It is time for the schools to re-open for in person instruction. I sincerely hope you will take this decision seriously for the sake of our children's education and mental health.

Thank you

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Dear WJUSD,

As recently as October 5, 2020, Kaiser Permanente updated it's [Thriving Schools Interactive Action Guide](#). We know that the pandemic has, "laid bare how much children and families depend on schools, not just as sites for quality education and supervision, but also as community anchors for social interaction, emotional support, nutritious meals and healthcare." What people often forget, however, is that the children in school today – even if they are not your – children are all of our children. They will grow to be our future leaders, business owners and taxpayers. It is in ALL of our best interest to ensure they thrive in their youth.

Understanding the risks, please reopen the schools to all children.

For teachers who are not comfortable returning to the classroom, please think creatively about how schools can use substitutes or staff professionals to facilitate the classroom environment while these teachers educate from home via video projection.

I ask you to please find financial resources to support our district. [Here is a guide](#) you can reference if you have not already.

Thank you for your work on behalf of the district,

Sarah

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As a concerned parent, grandmother and citizen of Woodland and Yolo County, I believe it's long past time to get our kids back to school. The private schools have been functioning for some time now with no problems. There is no reason our public schools can't do the same. We know that virtual learning has been and continues to be fail our kids, and with a virus that has such a miniscule chance of hurting them, this cure is far worse than the disease itself. Please, please, please open schools immediately, so our local children don't have to suffer anymore! We can't afford to fail them any further!

Your Friend In Real Estate,  
Sheri Cunningham

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Hi,

I just wanted to express my concerns as a community member in regards to opening up schools at phase 3. I have multiple loved ones who are teachers and I think that opening up puts them (and kids) in unnecessary risk. there is still a very real risk of infection, and with that comes the risk of serious illness, lifelong health problems, and death. what reason is there to force teachers and students to take that risk? on top of that, blended learning is even more work for teachers in an already difficult time. please do not take this unnecessary and risky step.

best,  
Laura Holstege

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Good afternoon members of the board.

My name is Jaclyn Gonzalez and I teach a special day class at Tafoya elementary. The students in my class are four, five, and six years old. Most of them have autism.

As you probably know, special education staff were directed to begin in person assessments this week, after a seven month break. We were given an hour of training on the process and procedures we would follow to complete these in person assessments. While it is a lot, it felt manageable.

However, yesterday, I was the first teacher at Tafoya to bring a student in to complete an assessment in-person. I would like to share that experience with you. To be honest, it was a little bit heartbreaking.

I went to set up the assessment room and realized several things: the table provided was too tall for my TK student. There were no chairs in the room. There were no pencils in the room. There were no masks or face shields. The custodian brought in a shorter table and I brought pencils and two small chairs in from my own classroom.

My student arrived with her mom a few minutes before the scheduled time. I greeted them outside the front office and introduced myself again, because while my student “knows” me, she has never seen me in person, or with a mask on. She hid behind her mom. I told her I liked her cat shirt and the rainbows on her mask. She hid behind her mom. I explained to her that we were going to do a little bit of work and practice matching letters, but that her mom would have to stay on the bench. She was clearly anxious, but followed me to our assessment room. I tried my best to make conversation to help her feel more comfortable.

We got started on our assessments. I showed her pictures of unicorns on my phone through the plexiglass to encourage her to continue working. Normally we do these assessments in 10 minute chunks across a week. But I had one hour to work with her because so many other students also need to be assessed and we have one assessment room.

I know nothing about this year and this situation is normal. But it is also not normal to not offer physical comfort to a five year old who is anxious to be away from her mom. She could not see my encouraging smile behind my mask.

Once I had disinfected the room, and every one of my 80 matching cards, I had a moment to reflect. SDC classes are being asked to come back for in person instruction in just two weeks. What will this look like through the eyes of a five year old? “I’m scared and sad in a new environment and my teachers are not offering me hugs, high fives, or smiles of comfort. I’m still learning how to hold my pencil correctly but my teachers will not help me place my fingers the right way. I am not allowed to sit by my friends in class. Can I read a book? Can I hand my friend a pencil when theirs breaks? Can I help my friend up when they fall down?”

As a teacher, I am concerned about what it will look like when we bring SDC students back. Is it worth it, if students are required to sit away from each other, cannot read shared classroom books, cannot use shared math manipulatives, cannot use shared playground equipment. I would ask you, what is the point? Believe me, virtual learning is no fun. I would much rather be back in the classroom. But what we are returning to is so different from what people think of when they think about school, when they think about kindergarten. Is it worth it?  
Thank you.

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Dear WJUSD School Board and Administration,

The price is getting too high to keep students home.  
Students are losing interest in school and feeling (at times dangerously) disconnected from their teachers and peers  
Teachers are working harder than ever to keep their students engaged and connected and reaching massive levels of burn-out  
Parents are overwhelmed and exhausted with trying to manage all that’s required  
Schools are hemorrhaging students to private schools, which will have a fiscal cost to the district next year

Having since July to define the safety and staffing requirements for Phase 3, WJUSD should be more than prepared to get students back into the classroom with out delay. Negotiating with the teachers' union should NOT be a barrier to getting kids back in school. Waiting for a break in the grading period or in the school calendar before sending kids back to school should NOT be the guide for when students should go back. The only determination should be whether our COVID numbers allow it - and they do.

During your meetings in July the Board spent a lot of time reiterating your message that your decisions are "student needs first" decisions - it's time to put the message into action. Since our county has achieved the red tier status that allows us partial time in school, counties all around us have made plans to start or have already started. It's now time to get Woodland students back into the classroom (with the proper safety precautions in place) - that's a "students first" decision.

As a parent with three children in the district, I look forward to the WJUSD Board and Administration listening to the needs of their school communities and move our schools into Phase 3 without further delay.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Johnson

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Hello,

My name is Maria Luisa Lares and I am a Counselor at Pioneer High School. This is my Pioneer High School Counselors' report.

1. The first couple of weeks of school were very busy with adapting in seeing our students via google meet/via zoom/emails/phone calls and texting. It sure has been adjustment! We do our best to be positive and remind the students and their families that we are here to help in every way we can.
2. We conducted our FIRST Zoom Parent Meeting for our Seniors' Parents in September. The meeting is an annual event. Over 100 parents participated. The meeting was done in English and Spanish. We received positive feedback from the parents. They all had a positive attitude and all ready to work with us to make this academic year a positive experience for their Seniors.
3. After this meeting, we met with the Seniors in their American Government and Economic classes. This was our first try in Zoom meetings with the students in the class. We gave a lot of information that pertained to the Seniors. The majority of Seniors signed up for future College applications and Financial Aid workshops.
4. In the first week of October, we held our annual Financial Aid Information Night. (Our Second Zoom Parent Meeting) We collaborated with our partners from UC Davis EAOP Ms. Monica Pena-Villegas and her team. We had over 100 parents participate and the workshops were held in English and in Spanish.
5. Last week, we worked with Seniors who are on an IEP to get them to complete their Financial Aid Application. We collaborated with the student's case manager, Ms. Heather Lanier and with our partners from UC Davis EAOP Monica Pena-Villegas. Ms. Pena-Villegas began the week with a Financial Aid Kickoff, we then worked on completing their FSA ID and

finished the week in completing their FAFSA. According to Ms. Lanier, the students and their parents were happy and relieved to receive help in this process. All Seniors were encouraged to attend the Cash for College last Saturday.

6. This week we finished presenting to the 9th grade class in their PE class. We covered graduation requirements, "a-g" requirements, Tutoring Services, and presented Mental Health Resources. We let the Freshmen know that we will be back in the PE classes to help them create their account in California Colleges and introduce CTE Pathways to them in the near future. We are again fortunate to work with a group of teachers who have always partnered up with us to make sure our students are informed with all the resources that PHS provides them.

7. We collaborated with WHS, DMS, Lee, and Jacob Holt with the planning of the 2021-2022 Registration dates. We are brainstorming creative ideas on how to register our students for the next school year. We are all excited to work together and come up with a creative idea.

8. November: We will focus on our time to get the Seniors complete their college applications as well as their Financial Aid.

9. We continue to work collaboratively with our Tier 2 team to go over referrals from teachers and check in and meet with students who need academic and mental health check ins. We then refer cases to Tier 3 for outside agency referrals. The one agency that is missing in our team is our Resource Officer, Matt Gray. He is a vital member of our team. There have been a couple of incidents that we had to call dispatch for help. Officer Gray has created a relationship with many of our students and with us, as a Staff. In situations where an Officer of the Law needs to be involved, it is helpful knowing that Officer. It helps us assure the student that they can trust Officer Gray because we know him. It makes a scary situation, feel safe knowing the person. During this pandemic, we need all the resources available in Woodland to help our students and their parents.

I do have more to report but I think my 3 minutes are up! I believe that the information that I shared is important for you all to know and I want to believe you want to know. We also know you are interested in knowing how we are helping our students through these challenging times. Please rest assured that we are constantly talking and seeing our students and working with their parents every day.

Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Maria Luisa Lares

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I want to thank the board for their continued caution in the balance between distance learning and opening schools and I hope that continues for the health of our students and amazing teachers and staff.

I also want to thank the board for bringing forward the topic that I am hoping to see discussed more with firm plans made to implement them the mental health and suicide prevention initiative. I have two autistic students in the school district one who already deals with mental health issues even before the pandemic so this hits close to home for the following reason.

Like many parents who are told their child is autistic I dove into researching what that meant for our child, our family, and the futures of both. The most shocking thing I found was that the suicide rate of autistic individuals is nine times higher than that of the general population.

It is because of this and what I suspect will be lingering mental health issues with all the children in our district even after we can return to some semblance of our life pre pandemic I am encouraging you to include in whatever plans you are working on a long term plan to include counseling and mental health support full time at each school site permanently. This will not only help students feel safe and supported at school which can only lead to better academics but it will also lead them to be stronger members of our community after they graduate.

Thank you for your time,  
Laura Brubaker George

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Dear Board of Trustees,

I am a 7th science teacher at Douglass Middle School and I have roughly 150 students. I am writing to share with you that there is no "Phase 3" plan in which I will be fully protected from that many students. In each of the proposed plans, I will still be exposed by the end of the week to all 150 students (and all of their family members, friends, neighbors and any other people who they interact with). I want to remind you of what the health specialists shared back at the July board meeting: it is not a matter of if, but when teachers and students get infected by Covid19 if we return in person. In our county, cases might have slowed down, but they are still happening. If you send our students and staff back to school in person (even if only for a "hybrid" schedule), there will be an increase of infections. Inevitably, there will also be hospitalizations, and potentially deaths. I urge you to consider the health and well-being of our community. Do not send us back to school until it is safe to do so. I understand online learning is challenging - believe me, I've spent more 12-16 hour work days than I can count in the past 8 weeks. However, I would much rather take the panic attacks, teeth grinding, and nightmares caused by distance learning than the potential increase of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths in our community. Yes, distance learning is traumatic for both students and teachers, but consider how traumatic it would be for a 2nd grader to learn that she was the person who infected and killed her teacher? Or how traumatic it would be for that child to bring home the disease leading to the infection and death of a family member. This is all preventable. Do not send us back to school in person until it is MORE than safe to do so. We need to learn from the school districts who opened their doors too soon and inevitably had outbreaks that caused them to close down again. In the long run, our students will learn from this experience and be more resilient because of it - but that cannot happen if they are dead. Or have permanent side effects like reduced lung capacity for the rest of their lives.

When you do make the decision to safely send us back to school, please listen to our teachers and those who are in districts that are ahead of us. They are overwhelmed by being asked to teach virtually and in-person at the same time. I cannot give my attention to 15 students on

Zoom and 15 students in my classroom at the same time. If that decision is made, then I will have no choice but to have my in-person students join the Zoom from their desks. If that happens, then what is the point of returning in person? For students to sit in a room at school and potentially infect each other? They will be receiving the same lessons as they would at home. Please do not rush into this decision thinking that teachers will be capable of “live-streaming” their lessons to their remote students while also managing their in-person students. I know we all want to be back to “normal”, but the proposed Phase 3 schedules are not going to provide that. Please listen to the teachers and consider the dramatic impact your decision has on their mental and physical health. We all want what is best for our students, but teachers cannot provide that if they are stressed and overworked.

Thank you for your time,

Rebecca Bernard

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Mr. Pritchard and members of the board,

I have been a math teacher at Lee through the last 8 school years. In that time I have typically been someone who just does what is asked of me whether I agree or disagree so as to be a team player. The issues we are dealing with now though are very concerning and I do not feel that I can just go along with whatever plan is handed to me, I need to make my position heard. Obviously none of us got into education to sit behind a screen and not have face to face interaction with our students. Everyday I miss interacting in person with the students but I would rather miss that interaction than have us return at an inappropriate time to an unsafe environment. While I read the board packets and watch as much of the board meetings as I can, despite them going on for an unnecessarily long time with nothing being accomplished in that extra time, I still feel like I don't have any information about what the district is actually planning. In a small town like Woodland information spreads quickly and it is often not based on fact but based on snippets people have heard and/or guesses they are making about what will happen. Our board and district office must do a better job of keeping staff, students and families up to date. The not knowing is taking a huge toll on the mental health of my students. Everyday students ask me if we are going back, sometimes citing wrong information. I am left to tell them, I simply don't know. Many other districts have stated they will not consider reopening until January, why are we not among those districts? In the last 8 years I have observed the district make many decisions that were not well thought out and that ended up leaving teachers to clean up the mess. This is simply not a situation that we can leave to chance. If you rush to open schools in a hybrid model, we will see an increase in cases that based on other districts' experiences will lead to teachers being out and students being out. We do not have subs to cover this increase in teacher absences, I tell you this based on the difficulty we have even getting coverage in the best of times. I understand that the plan is to enter a hybrid model before everyone returns but the two models we were sent are impossible for teachers to implement any valuable instruction in. If I am trying to teach my in person students at the same time as my online students I will end up glued to my computer in the same manner I am now and the in person students will not benefit from being in class and

will just unnecessarily be exposed to possible COVID carriers. I know that there are a lot of people urging you to get kids back in the classroom but think about what that will actually look like. As I stated, the models presented do not actually benefit the students, in fact they actually take attention and resources away by stretching teachers to be in multiple places at once. I urge you to research districts throughout the state that have successful hybrid models and find what they are doing that works and doesn't work. This is not something that should be rushed into, we must fully explore the options and what actually benefits our students. I know you face a lot of difficult decisions but please do your research and consider what is best for students, families and teachers.

Sincerely,

Jessica Graves

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Hello,

I am writing on behalf of the many teachers i know and love. I believe that blended learning is an unnecessary measure being proposed during the middle of a global pandemic . Not only does it greatly increase the amount of work for teachers who are already underpaid, it is also an unnecessary and dangerous health risk to all teachers, students, staff, and those who live with the above mentioned. I urge you to reconsider.

Thank you for your time,  
Alex Fernandez

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Good afternoon,

My name is Tori Lamb, and I teach at Lee Middle School. I wanted to voice my concerns about the Phase 3 plans that have been made public. Overall, my workload has increased significantly since we've begun Distance Learning this year.

Teaching online and in-person simultaneously concerns me because I only see that it will increase the workload. Already, I have had numerous complaints from students and parents feeling like I am not able to support them properly with this schedule. I am working as hard as I can to teach grade-level standards, give my students social and emotional support, and build relationships, but it never feels like enough. Asking teachers to add in-person instruction will only add to the stress we are feeling and will impact the amount of effort and time we can put into our work.

Furthermore, in-person and online teaching are two different ball games, as we've all learned this year. The way I structure my online classes is so different from the way I would teach in-person (hence why my workload is so much heavier now). We initially believed we could transfer in-person skills and strategies to online classes, and that was not true. It will not work the other way around either.



I strongly urge the board to reconsider this option. Teachers will not be able to provide quality instruction if you double the amount of work expected of them (especially since the workload has increased so much already).

Thank you for your time.

Tori Lamb

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Good afternoon,

On the agenda is D.1, discussion about entering Phase 3. I urge the district to not send teachers or students back to a blended learning environment.

The city of Woodland has experienced Covid-19 related two deaths in the last week. The only reason we have been able to experience only two deaths this week is due to limited contact with others. If schools shut down in March for safety reasons, why reopen now? These lowered cases are due to these measures, and we have seen time and time again new surges when restrictions are lifted too soon.

Though distance learning is frustrating, stressing out teachers further with not only the anxiety of a child infecting them but also a doubled workload is not the answer. Stressed teachers means lower immune systems. We can teach your children from a laptop, but we cannot teach your child from a ventilator. We cannot teach your child from a grave.

Stressed teachers also mean the quality of our student's education goes down. Blended learning will be twice the amount of work for no extra pay. The students in the classroom will not benefit from their teachers at the computer who are already overloaded and trying to help distance learners. It will only frustrate students in the classroom who will then have the distraction of each other, leading to an increase in managing those students to keep them accountable, leading to less attention paid to students already struggling to keep up online. This is a vicious cycle and doesn't even begin to touch on keeping students accountable for covid-19 safety measures (enforcing masks, distance, etc.).

This pandemic is a stressful time for all us, and it will take us coming together as a community to keep each other healthy and safe. However, treating teachers as disposable is not the answer. I urge the board to follow the science and do what they know is right -- not just what they think will gain them votes for their chair, a seat maybe someone should not have if the interests/health of teachers and students isn't their priority. Pressure from parents who are tired is not our job as teachers to fix. We are not parents. We are not babysitters. We are educators and people whose lives and health - just like those of our students and community - are valuable and irreplaceable. So I ask the board and the community: Do you REALLY care about your community's health the way you say you do? Or does your compassion for others end at your nose?

Thank you.

Ashley Mitchell (she/her)

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Dear WJUSD Board Members,

My name is Aiden Taylor Van Peurseem and I am a 5th grader at Tafoya. I am also Tafoya Elementary's school vice president. I think that we need to go back to school full-time as soon as possible for the following reasons:

Learning has been difficult for myself and my fellow students. It is a challenge going to school online because we are going back and forth between screens, trying to find assignments, it is very difficult to focus and computer issues are a constant barrier to our learning.

I miss my friends. It is healthy for us to be social and be with our friends.

To be honest, I need to get out of my house. My siblings are very distracting and after 8 months I need a new environment to keep me motivated.

On behalf of the Tafoya Elementary student body, we beg you to please let us go back to school in person immediately.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Aiden Taylor Van Peurseem

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I know that today per board agenda, one of the study sessions is phrase three and the proposed schedules. The proposed schedules that I have reviewed caused me great concern because it seems as if more is being expected of us as teachers and our concerns about all of what has been put on our plate, has not been addressed. Many of us have delved into the world of virtual learning whole heartedly because we know we need to anchor our students learning in our thoughtful planning and care. It is alarming to expect teachers to teach to both a live audience and a virtual audience in the proposed schedule. This has been rolled out in various California districts and has been met with little success in the last few weeks. As an educator, it is crucial for me to plan ahead and know what is sustainable for myself and my students. I can honestly say that moving to the proposed hybrid model is an endeavor that will create anxiety in both teachers and students alike. Please consider the social emotional health of our school communities as you move forward in your planning.

Angela Davies

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Please see attached for a letter from a 1st grade student at Tafoya.

Translation

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To: Board Members

My name is carter and please let us goooooo back to tafoya.

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Good afternoon,

On agenda item D.1 to discuss entering Phase 3 of reopening, I urge the district to hold back on sending students and teachers back to in-person classes, even with blended learning.

We should not be putting our teachers and students at risk when there is still a global pandemic on the rise. Distance learning is tough, but it has been working for months. There should be no rush to reinstate in-person classes when daily cases, deaths, and positivity rates are higher than when the state shut down in April, especially when the winter and holidays seasons are coming up.

Please save lives and do not move forward with blended learning or in-person classes.

Thanks you,  
Tiffanie

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I understand that you as a board are faced with a difficult decision today. As a proud mother of four children, I urge you to PLEASE consider opening up schools or at least consider a hybrid system for our children. Our kids are starting to get tired of distance learning. They miss their friends, they miss their teachers, they need a change of pace, they are having a hard time focusing, and need exposure to life outside of their homes. Many are dealing with anxiety and depression and straight up boredom. These kids need a positive change.

Two out of my four children attend Woodland Christian and I can't tell you enough what a positive impact going back to school has had on them. My kids are more motivated, they have a more positive outlook, are generally more happy, and have even started to lose some of their extra pandemic weight. It's been such a nice change. I really wish that my two younger children who are enrolled in a WJUSD school would have the opportunity to have the same experience.

Outside of the nursing homes, our community is seeing a decrease in COVID cases. Plus, at one of your last board meetings you had an infectious disease doctor who stated that for some reason when kids are infected with COVID the symptoms are usually mild, and when they pass on their sickness, the adults they infect usually have a mild case as well. The majority of the teachers I have spoken to want to go back. Let those who are at risk continue with distance learning and have them cater to the children in our district who want to remain in distance learning as well.

I understand that there are risks with reopening but there will be an even greater risk if these kids (especially those in those early grades who are learning all the fundamentals of education) if they do not get the proper education and social interactions that kids thrive upon.

Thank you,  
Corinne Elsea

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Good Afternoon!

Over the last six months, I have had my own opinions regarding the distance learning situations but I have never expressed them. Mainly because I do not believe in complaining without a solid answer on how to fix the situation. As we know from all of our experiences over the last six months....there is no answer. But what I do know for sure, the current situation is not the answer!

I have been a WJUSD parent for the past twenty years and I am not going to ramble on about all the problems that we are currently facing but I will tell you the kids are suffering. My oldest daughter is a junior at UCSB after graduating from WHS and is still able to thrive in this new normal. My youngest is a sophomore at WHS and is not thriving at all. Yes, they are different people and students but I think the age has a huge impact on why they are not both thriving. Whether we like it or not, high school is a time of extreme peer pressure. For my youngest daughter, this works to her benefit. Her friends do very well academically and this has always challenged her to do her best to keep up. She would never not turn in a paper in a regular learning situation as she wants to prove herself to her peers. However, my A student now has C's, D's and F's because her motivation is GONE. Not only does she no longer care about the letter grade, I can tell you that she has absolutely no clue what is going on in a few of her classes. We have had many sleepless nights worried about how this year is going to impact the rest of her life.

In addition to academics, the social aspect these kids are missing is HUGE! Last year at this time, we would have just finished a fun homecoming week and the evenings would be filled with volleyball and football games/practices. Although I know this is difficult to bring back, some sort of social engagement is so needed for these kids.

I realize how hard this is and you are held accountable for the well being of many families but it is time to stand up and take a chance. Re-open our schools and let these kids live again....

Sincerely,

Jason & Shannon Hatanaka

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Hello,

I would like to ask the Board to please allow schools to reopen with mask wearing, social distancing as much as possible. Yes, distance learning had a place to help control the spread of COVID but are you thinking about what this is doing to our children's mental health? Please change the focus from everything else and consider what cost this is having on our children.

Woodland Christain School is in person and doing just fine. We DO NOT have to reinvent the wheel, ask them, ask other schools and let's focus on getting back to school!!!

It is time for someone on the Board to stand up for the thousands of voices who are smart and can follow the rules and get our children back on campus!!!

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Have a great Day!

Maria Thomas

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Before we even talk about Phase III, should we not answer questions and ask if the staff including but not limited to office, parapro', library techs, custodians, and nutrition assistants have any concerns with Phase II and the reopening of schools to some students? Here are a few questions and not all of them by any means that we have as Paraprofessionals.

First, who and how soon will information be distributed?

Incase of an emergency, power outage, or internet service what are the DISTRICT procedures going to be? How long will we stay in a room without air circulation?

If a student starts feeling sick, what are the district wide protocols going to be?

How will behavior outburst be handled, if a teacher is teaching via zoom and the para is in the classroom supporting students? Who will be responsible for that student?

How often will bathrooms be cleaned?

How is changing students schedules now going to affect them? (middle school and high school)

Who will be incharge of making sure when adults and students returning to school after an illness are symptom free?

Please, Please address these concerns and don't put the cart before the horse again in deciding on Phase III of returning to school.

Irene Difuntorum (Mrs. D)

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Dear Trustees, Cabinet, and community,

There are several steps of preparation yet to be actually made to be prepared for a Stage 2 reopening and a stage 3 reopening.

Has WJUSD been disseminating public health information from the public health department as they are mandated to do?

WJUSD has communicated to the community considerations to make for themselves or their households if their children or household members have underlying health conditions that put them at greater risk of complications from COVID-19.

According to the Sacramento Bee, "With local coronavirus numbers showing some signs of increase, Yolo County officials are putting a strict limit on attendance for social gatherings: No parties or get-togethers of more than 16, the amended health order says."

Yolo County put out a press release about this yesterday. Why has WJUSD not redistributed this critical public health information already? Our educators have the information through our unions communications, why don't our families? It can be posted on the district website and social media in minutes. We know many in our community depend solely on WJUSD for access to this life saving public health information. How can WJUSD fulfill the mandate to distribute public health information more effectively?

How can we feel confident WJUSD has the capacity to protect students and their families when WEA members are reporting they are being given the wrong information from supervisors about the use of Personal Protective Equipment?

Why are administrators making unreasonable statements like assessments taking place during a Phase 1 cannot take place outside if possible, despite our own county health department encouraging any gatherings that can be held outside be held outside, be held outside.

Any sentiment towards exerting power over hard working people trying to keep a semblance of normal for our students, instead of protecting student and staff health and lives has no place in the midst of a pandemic 200,000 Americans - disproportionately Black, Latino, Asian, and Indigenous, have already lost their lives to.

A teacher scheduled to potentially return during Phase 1 reopening was told that it was appropriate to let a face shield used in conjunction with a face mask for protection to "air out" for 24 hours when a quick search of CDC guidelines provided directions that reusable face masks should be cleaned between uses with a client, or in our case a student receiving services during Phase 1. We have more work to do to adequately protect our students, our staff and their families.

Educators slated for return during a Phase 1 reopening do not feel they have adequate Personal Protective Equipment. WJUSD has already spent millions of dollars to prepare for a reopening but staff have no assurances gloves or disinfectant will be available should there be an instance they are needed between custodial cleaning. Disinfectant is not safe to near students due to widespread asthma and allergies in our student population. What is the plan for when the need to disinfect arises between custodial cleanings? Do educators have the PPE to keep themselves safe? Where will students go if there is a need to disinfect?

There are many mitigations WJUSD has not put in place yet recommended by our own California Department of Education. Nowhere at WJUSD have I seen unidirectional walkways, we are not seeing staff, even administrators honoring not visiting work others' work spaces if information can be shared virtually instead, we are not observing all wearing masks and social distancing, there are not yet planned entry and exit points on campuses for phases of reopening, or hand washing stations. These are just a few of the many dozens of basic steps that still have yet to be taken.

We are not able to look families in the face and honestly say at this point. We can keep your child safe at school. We have work to do.

Sincerely,  
Tahnee Sweeney  
WEA Treasurer and Equity Team Member

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To the WJUSD Board of Trustees,

As we prepare to welcome our students back to our physical school sites know this first and foremost: teachers want students back. We miss seeing them face to face, interacting with them, growing with them. To make our students' return to school meaningful we must be as thoughtful as possible about how we implement the next phase in our reopening plan.

I strongly urge the board against adopting the Hybrid Elementary Draft schedule that would have half of our students receiving in-person instruction and half receiving streaming instruction at the same time. This schedule essentially asks teachers to prepare and manage two separate classes simultaneously. Yes we will be seeing students at the same time, but the kinds of activities we are able to do in-person vs. online are vastly different, so we would need to create two of every learning activity. I fear that in-person students would sit bored and waiting while the teacher addresses the needs of the online group and vice versa. For quality instruction to happen, we need to be able to give students our full, undivided attention and this proposed schedule does not allow for that.

At this point I believe the first proposed schedule (where one group would receive in-person instruction at a time while the second group would be online) is more feasible for students and teachers with one major caveat: teachers need far, far more time to prepare, plan, and grade than is currently allocated in the proposed schedule. We know that all good teaching takes time to implement, and if we are preparing for two different modes of instruction we simply must give teachers the time they need as professionals to create and implement an effective learning plan for their students.

Teachers are already burning out from the amount of work that distance learning has heaped upon us. I ask the district to take our professional needs into account as you make a decision about the future. If we adopt a schedule that supports our teachers, we will better be able to support our students.

Thank you,  
Clara Skaug

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My name is Donna DeLong and I have been teaching over 20 years at Dingle Elementary.

I appreciate that the board is having a study session. I would like to see the nurses be a part of this discussion as well as ventilation experts. No amount of Clorox wiping is going to be enough.

I am concerned that the issue of proper ventilation is still not addressed in the slide presentation on the agenda. Where is the protocol for contact tracing and testing? What is the protocol for someone who has symptoms? What is the protocol when someone tests positive?

These are questions that need mitigated before you can even address a schedule that so far looks to place everyone at a greater risk of contracting COVID - 19.

Thank you.

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Hi, I am Mair Winger, one of the preschool special day class teachers for WJUSD. As I have stated to numerous people, I am concerned about the rules and expectations that will be placed on the smallest and most severely affected special education students when returning to school. Social skills and interactions have been a key part of my preschool SDC class curriculum. I have been able to encourage my students to talk with one another and share experiences over the internet, not well, but it's happening. When we return to school, I will then be placed in the position of teaching my 3 and 4 year old students with Autism, maladaptive behaviors. Stay away from your teachers and friends, no holding hands, no helping each other with jackets or backpacks, no sharing toys or playdough or gluesticks. What's yours is your's and what's their's is their's! I must foster distrust and lack of empathy, if a child falls, I typically make sure their friends all stop and come to see if the student is alright Now I must make sure the students stay back and I will be breaking protocol if I give the child a hug or hold their hand to walk to the fridge to get an ice pack and what kind of villain doesn't comfort a scared or injured 3 year old?

Also, please consider appropriate PPE for all staff working with children needing to have their diapers changed, cleaned after toileting accidents, assistance with dressing, assistance with wiping their noses or washing their hands. Uncovered coughs and sneezes are a daily occurrence and the teacher's clothing is sometimes used as a kleenex before the child can be stopped.

I once again feel that our Special Education Staff is being used as guinea pigs and our most vulnerable students, the ones least likely to be able to adhere to social distancing and hygiene rules, are the ones being put to the test. Please reconsider re-opening the classes yet.

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"If a child doesn't learn the way you teach, teach the way the child learns"

Mair Winger

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Dear Board of Trustees,



My name is Alexia Johnson and I am the President of the Woodland High School's ASB. It has come to my attention that you all are studying schedules for us to return to school. I know this will be a difficult decision, but I encourage you to please consider not only the physical health, but the mental health of all the students. Allowing us to go back to school even if it's only a few days a week is imperative for the academic success, student participation, and the mental health of all the students. Please take into consideration what would be best for the students and don't let money or cautiousness prevent us from being able to learn and pass through school without the difficulties of being online. Being in school is the best way for students to learn, and will be best for the students that do their best as well as the students who don't.

Sincerely, Alexia Johnson

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Dear Board of Trustees,

Hi I am Brooklyn Johnson. I have become aware that you all are studying potential schedules tonight for us to return to school. After looking at the two schedules proposed for high school, I believe that students need to go back to school even if it just means a few days a week. The reason I believe this is because it is very unhealthy for kids to be looking at a screen all day. I know that kids mental and physical health get affected. For example, I often get terrible headaches when I am on my chrome book for a long time. Also, many of my friends have told me how they hate distance learning and feel so alone and depressed because they can't go to school to participate in extra curriculars and have social interaction.

Thank you, Brooklyn Johnson