



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

February 25, 2021

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/wjUSD> (click on the Board Meeting date).

Attendance Taken at 5:00 PM:

Present:

Deborah Bautista Zavala
Morgan Childers
Bibiana Garcia
Kandice Richardson Fowler
Noel Rodriguez
Rogelio Villagrana
Jake Whitaker

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.

B. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA – ACTION

Minutes:

Superintendent Tom Pritchard tabled item N.3. *Information/Action: Secondary School Site Plans for Student Achievement for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.*

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve the agenda as modified at the meeting. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Bibiana Garcia.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala

Yes Morgan Childers

Yes Bibiana Garcia
Abstain Kandice Richardson Fowler
Yes Noel Rodriguez
Yes Rogelio Villagrana
Yes Jake Whitaker

C. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA - In-person attendance at the Board Meeting will not be permitted. Please email public comments by 4:00 pm on the Board Meeting date to public.comment@wjusd.org. Per Board Bylaw 9323, comments (emails) received shall be limited to three minutes per person, and the Board shall limit the total time for public comment on each item to 20 minutes. Public comments may also be submitted by voicemail by 4:00 pm on the Board Meeting date, at 530-406-3202, or by mail postmarked on or before the Board Meeting date, at Attn: Public Comment, 435 6th Street, Woodland, CA 95695. The meeting will be available for live stream viewing at <https://livestream.com/wjused> (click on the Board Meeting date).

Minutes:

No public comments were submitted for Closed Session agenda items.

D. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

D.1. Public Employee: Discipline/Dismissal/Release, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957

D.1.a. Non-Reelection of Probationary Certificated Employees Resolution #47-21

D.1.b. Non-Reelection of Temporary/Long Term Substitute Certificated Employees Resolution #48-21

D.1.c. Resolution of Non-Reelection of Probationary Certificated Administrative Employee #50-21

D.2. Conference With Labor Negotiator, Leanee Medina Estrada: WEA and/or CSEA, Pursuant to Govt. Code 54957.6

Minutes:

The Board recessed at 5:02 p.m. and reconvened in Closed Session at 5:02 p.m. Closed Session ended at 6:05 p.m.

E. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION - 6:00 P.M.

Minutes:

The Board President reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 6:10 p.m.

E.1. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

The Board President led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E.2. Announcement of any action taken in Closed Session or items to be approved in Open Session that were reviewed in Closed Session

Minutes:

The Board of Trustees took action in closed session by unanimous vote to approve Resolution 47-21: Non-Reelection of Probationary Certificated Employees. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Noel Rodriguez.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

The Board of Trustees took action in closed session by unanimous vote to approve Resolution 48-21: Non-Reelection of Temporary/Long Term Substitute Certificated Employees. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Morgan Childers.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

The Board of Trustees took action in closed session by unanimous vote to approve Resolution 50-21: Non-Reelection of Probationary Certificated Administrative Employee. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Morgan Childers.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

F. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR SECTION G.

Minutes:

There were no public comments for section G.

G. INFORMATION: UPDATE ON YOLO COUNTY COVID-19 STATUS - DR. AIMEE SISSON

Minutes:

The Information item “Update on Yolo County COVID-19 Status – Dr. Aimee Sisson” was presented in a PowerPoint presentation by the Yolo County Public Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR SECTION I. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Minutes:

Please see the attached public comments.

I. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

I.1. Action: Approve Resolution 13-21: Women’s History Month - March 2021

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Resolution 13-21: Women’s History Month - March 2021. Passed with a motion by Bibiana Garcia and a second by Rogelio Villagrana.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

Minutes:

Trustee Kandice Richardson Fowler presented Resolution 13-21 to Betsy Marchand, the first woman elected to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

I.2. Action: Approve Resolution 14-21: Arts Education Month - March 2021

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Resolution 14-21: Arts Education Month - March 2021. Passed with a motion by Jake Whitaker and a second by Rogelio Villagrana.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers

- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

Minutes:

Trustee Jake Whitaker presented Resolution 14-21 to Janet Sakona (Woodland HS) and Cynthia Moore (Pioneer HS), both high school performing arts teachers.

I.3. Recognition: Woodland High School Athletic Foundation

Minutes:

Superintendent Tom Pritchard recognized the Woodland High School Athletic Foundation and their efforts on the Woodland High School Stadium project. Karen Gossard accepted the recognition on behalf of the foundation.

I.4. Action: Approve Resolution 53-21: In Support of Equal Treatment for Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI)

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Resolution 53-21: In Support of Equal Treatment for Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), with suggested edits from Trustees Noel Rodriguez and Deborah Bautista Zavala. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Kandice Richardson Fowler.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

I.5. Action: Approve Gifts to the District

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve the Gifts to the District. Passed with a motion by Noel Rodriguez and a second by Morgan Childers.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

J. PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE BOARD - In-person attendance at the Board Meeting will not be permitted. Please email public comments by 4:00 pm on the Board Meeting date to public.comment@wjusd.org. Per Board Bylaw 9323, comments (emails) received shall be limited to three minutes per person, and the Board shall limit the total time for public comment on each item to 20 minutes. Public comments may also be submitted by voicemail by 4:00 pm on the Board Meeting date, at 530-406-3202, or by mail postmarked on or before the Board Meeting date, at Attn: Public Comment, 435 6th Street, Woodland, CA 95695. The meeting will be available for live stream viewing at <https://livestream.com/wjused> (click on the Board Meeting date).

Minutes:

Please see the attached public comments.

K. REPORTS

K.1. Report from Student Board Members

Minutes:

Pioneer High School Student Board Member Brynn Webb shared information about Pioneer HS events.

Woodland High School Student Board Member Hannah Fettig shared information about Woodland HS events.

Cache Creek High School Student Board Member Angel Gaytan Esquivel shared information about Cache Creek HS events.

K.2. Superintendent's Report

K.2.a. Information: Check-in from the Previous Regular Board Meeting

Minutes:

Superintendent Pritchard provided brief updates to the Board of Trustees on actions taken since the last Regular Board Meeting.

K.3. Report from California School Employees Association (CSEA)

Minutes:

CSEA President Todd Freer shared information regarding CSEA activities.

K.4. Report from Woodland Education Association (WEA)

Minutes:

WEA President Jennifer Shilen shared information regarding WEA activities.

K.5. Report from Board Members

Minutes:

Trustee Noel Rodriguez shared information regarding activities that he has participated in since the last Regular Board Meeting.

K.6. Information: Board Committee Updates

Minutes:

Trustee Bautista Zavala provided an update on the recent Safety Committee Meeting. Trustee Richardson Fowler provided an update on the recent Yolo County School Boards Association Meeting.

L. FACILITIES AND FINANCE

L.1. Information: Average Daily Attendance (ADA) and Enrollment Report for the 2020-21 School Year (Written Report)

Minutes:

The Information item "Average Daily Attendance (ADA) and Enrollment Report for the 2020-21 School Year" was presented as a written report.

L.2. Information: Financial Status Report Including Cash Flow Report (Written Report)

Minutes:

The Information item "Financial Status Report Including Cash Flow Report" was presented as a written report.

L.3. Action: Approve Resolution 51-21: Revision to the 2020-21 Budget

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Resolution 51-21: Revision to the 2020-21 Budget. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Morgan Childers.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
Yes Morgan Childers
Yes Bibiana Garcia
Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
Yes Noel Rodriguez
Yes Rogelio Villagrana
Yes Jake Whitaker

M. HUMAN RESOURCES

M.1. Action: Approve Resolution 49-21: Reduce/Eliminate Particular Kinds of Certificated Services

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Resolution 49-21: Reduce/Eliminate Particular Kinds of Certificated Services. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Kandice Richardson Fowler.

- No Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

M.2. Action: Approve Resolution No. 52-21: Elimination and/or Reduction of Classified Employee Services Due to Lack of Work/Lack of Funds

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Resolution 52-21: Elimination and/or Reduction of Classified Employee Services Due to Lack of Work/Lack of Funds. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Morgan Childers.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- No Jake Whitaker

N. TEACHING AND LEARNING

N.1. Information/Action: Review Options for Secondary In-person Instruction Beginning April 12, 2021

Motion Passed: Motion was made to extend public comments to 30 minutes for this agenda item. Passed with a motion by Deborah Bautista Zavala and a second by Kandice Richardson Fowler.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- No Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

Minutes:

The Board recessed the meeting at 8:40 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

The Information/Action item "Review Options for Secondary In-person Instruction Beginning April 12, 2021" was presented in a PowerPoint presentation by Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Elodia Ortega-Lampkin, Director of College and Career Readiness Jacob Holt, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christina Lambie, and Director of Equity and Access Maria Orozco.

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Option 1 for Secondary In-person Instruction Beginning April 12, 2021. Passed with a motion by Morgan Childers and a second by Rogelio Villagrana.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
Yes Morgan Childers
Yes Bibiana Garcia
No Kandice Richardson Fowler
Yes Noel Rodriguez
Yes Rogelio Villagrana
Yes Jake Whitaker

N.2. Action: Approve Resolution 54-21: Return to In-Person Instruction on April 12, 2021 in the District's Phase 3: Hybrid Instructional Model

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Resolution 54-21: Return to In-Person Instruction on April 12, 2021 in the District's Phase 3: Hybrid Instructional Model. Passed with a motion by Jake Whitaker and a second by Rogelio Villagrana.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
Yes Morgan Childers
Yes Bibiana Garcia
Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
Yes Noel Rodriguez
Yes Rogelio Villagrana
Yes Jake Whitaker

N.3. Information/Action: Secondary School Plans for Student Achievement for the 2020-2021 Academic Year

Minutes:

This item was tabled.

O. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second Bibiana Garcia.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
Yes Morgan Childers
Yes Bibiana Garcia
Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
Abstain Noel Rodriguez
Yes Rogelio Villagrana
Yes Jake Whitaker

O.1. Business Services

O.1.a. Approve Purchases of Items/Services in Excess of \$15,000: List 13-21

O.2. Educational Services

O.2.a. Approve Petition for Early Graduation as Follows: a. Student #EG 21-6 and b. Student #EG 21-7

O.3. Human Resources

O.3.a. Approve Certificated Personnel Report, 21-12

O.3.b. Approve Classified Personnel Report, 21-12

O.4. Superintendent's Office

O.4.a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes:

O.4.a.i. February 11, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting

P. INFORMATION/ACTION: TRUSTEE REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Minutes:

Trustee Bautista Zavala requested the following items: Phase 4 Planning, Virtual Learning Academy and Ethnic Studies. Trustee Richardson Fowler requested the following items: Cultural Coralism and Extended School Year.

Q. INFORMATION: CLOSING COMMENTS

R. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR BOARD MEETING: March 11, 2021 - Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. for Open Session.

S. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Board President adjourned the meeting at 10:41 p.m.

BOARD CLERK

BOARD PRESIDENT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 25, 2021
Public Comments

My name is Yen Marshall. I am the national Executive Director of APAPA (Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association). We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with the mission to empower Asian and Pacific Islander Americans through education, leadership, and civic engagement.

Local incidences in Yolo County of school bullying and unprovoked attacks on APIA innocent victims, businesses and seniors validates the growing concern that this is the beginning of a national trend. Stop AAPI Hate received over 2,808 firsthand accounts of anti-Asian hate from 47 states and the District of Columbia.

This must stop. I am requesting your support in condemning and combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Your support of this resolution will demonstrate Yolo County's intolerance of such racist, xenophobic behavior and attitudes focused on the APIA community, which will also support President Biden's condemnation and denunciation of the current anti-Asian bias and discrimination.

Thank you.
Yen

Hello Board Members,

I would like to bring up an issue that is going to affect not just Woodland High but the district as a whole if nothing is done about it. Woodland High Admin are currently attempting to sweep the racist actions of a student in ASB who holds a class office position under the rug. Not only does she hold an officer position in ASB but also in FFA. The Admin at Woodland High aren't permitting disciplinary actions to be taken against her. This student said the n-word multiple times on video while intoxicated at the age of 18. Not only did she use this racial slur multiple times, but she proceeded to post it showing that she saw nothing wrong with her actions until being called out. After being called out she used her intoxication as an excuse and didn't apologize until she was called out once more for her "apology" not being meaningful. She then apologized properly to the person who called her out in the comments of her excuse. She believes that with her apology she has corrected her actions and deserves to be forgiven. However, that is not the case and just because an apology that took 5 seconds to write was sent out doesn't mean that this should be swept under the rug without her facing consequences. Keep in mind that she used this word while representing a school that is primarily made up of students and faculty who belong to minority groups which only worsened the effects that the usage of this racial slur had on the members of our school. Years ago she might have been able to use the excuse of being "uneducated" on the way that this word would affect others. However, as we have all seen thanks to the BLM movement, there has been a spread of resources to properly educate oneself on the topic. In our ASB class we were

addressing the situation and discussing what we as a class can do to show the students of Woodland High that we do not condone racist behavior. During this discussion, we were forcibly stopped by admin where they called this hateful action a "mistake" and said that it is "not that big of a deal" words that came directly from V.P. McLearan's mouth, they also excused it saying that it was okay because of the way it was used. On top of this, our ASB teacher is likely going to be facing consequences for addressing what needed to be addressed. This behavior is unacceptable from our Admin, and something needs to be done about this situation. As an ASB class we can do no more than ask her to resign from her held position since Admin refuses to take disciplinary action. This student accepted a leadership position meaning that accepted more responsibility which led to her hateful actions becoming a school matter. When you accept a leadership position you are accepting the responsibility that comes with it which includes responsibility for your actions. Since Woodland high Admin has refused to do anything about this situation I am bringing it to your attention hoping that we will not see a repeat situation of blatant racism being condoned in our district.

This email was written by a student of Woodland Joint Unified School District

Dear Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,

It has come to my attention that the elimination of Paraprofessional job openings are to be voted on during this evenings meeting. While I recognize that the district is facing budget cuts, why are we looking at those cuts in the classroom?

We are all being told that those are open positions that are no longer needed.

We have Paraprofessionals covering up to 11 classes a week. This means that they are in some classes only 1 day a week. This is not enough time to be familiar with the curriculum for that week in order to help students. We are expected to be able to reteach and help modify work what has been learned during the week. How can we do this without the prior knowledge of what the student has learned?

While we are in zoom mode we listening to instructions that the teacher is giving, typing back and forth to students that are asking us questions, jumping from breakout room to breakout room helping students, and trying our best to help each student. In typical years we bounce around the classroom from student to student, and after school many of us help out with homework.

Paraprofessionals can be moved by the district at anytime, so do we really have open positions or are we undeserving our most vulnerable students?

Irene Difuntorum

Good Evening Board,

I am proud of the action taken during last weeks special board meeting. Setting a date is definite progress!! But please don't stop there. Assert your power and demand teachers back. Please have them return in plenty of time PRIOR to the April 12th student start date. Do not prolong keeping our students home longer than needed.

In addition, if possible move the date up! April 1st or mid March! The sooner the better.

Please also choose hybrid options a or b for secondary. (The ideal being these kids in school every single week!!) The third option is unacceptable and should be thrown out!

I implore you to demand staff back on campus. I also implore you to lighten their workload and all them to have asynchronous days when the students are at home. Perhaps even adding a recorded lesson could allow you to comply with state regulations. Having them teach to both at home and in class students is of no benefit to anyone.

Praying for you to (finally) do the right thing this week!

God Bless,
Amanda Young

I am imploring you to please open our schools! While I wish the start date was sooner, and it was for full in person learning, the April 12th start date and phase 3 reopening is a great first step towards a full reopening!

Please include ALL students in the hybrid schedule! Our secondary students need this! Clubs, science labs, or music classes aren't going to be enough to help them after school..but it would be great to offer these along with one of the two hybrid options. They need in person learning to address the learning loss, and to be on a hybrid model for their mental health. With the smaller class sizes due to the hybrid model, and our teachers being vaccinated, this should be feasible. Some classes could even be held outside. The middle school and high schoolers need to be in school regularly too!

Please do this for our kids. It's time. Our public health officials and the CDC have told us it's safe. It's been a year. A year of missed field trips, proms, graduations, missed promotions, and missed trips to science camp. A year of tremendous learning loss. I know it's late in the school year, but opening schools for these last couple of months will give our children hope and will do wonders to improve their mental health. Our kinders want to see their classroom, our sixth graders (mine included) want to enjoy their last few moments of elementary school they have attended since kindergarten, our 7th graders and 9th graders want to see what middle school and high school is like, and our high school seniors want to cherish these last precious moments in high school before they move on to adulthood. Please reopen our schools. Our kids deserve better and need this. In person learning is essential for ALL students, we owe it our kids to move forward safely.

Jennifer Garcia
WJUSD parent for reopening schools

While I greatly appreciate the steps recently taken forward, it does not adequately address the 7th - 12th grade needs.

WJUSD is not unique to COVID-19 and grades 7 - 12. Many other schools across the county have created schedules for the secondary grades while maintaining some sense of a regular schedule.

It is unfathomable to me why we are six months into the CURRENT school year, and we still do not have a plan that returns all students to the classroom full time. It is even more unfathomable that the new proposal for the secondary grades includes an option between seeing a teacher one time per week or once every other week! Since when did this become acceptable as teaching?

As I shared with you last week, my child has been in a treatment facility since November for suicide attempts/ideations. Should we move forward with the three options, I'd like to share with you how my child will most likely handle the options:

Option 1: 2 days of improved mood due to on-campus instruction; 3 days of depressed mood due to online schooling, which is defeating, depressing, and difficult; 1-2 weekend days of recouping because they just had 3 days of depression due to online schooling.

Option 2: 2 days of improved mood on campus; 1 defeated and difficult online school day, but hopefully not depressed because it's only 1 day; 2 additional days of improved mood because they're on campus; 2 good weekend days because they've had an active week; 7 defeating, depressing, and difficult days because there is only online school.

Option 3: Not even a choice as there is essentially no difference to the current schedule.

I'd also like to express; I firmly believe if I had the funds to send my child to a private school, they would not be experiencing the difficulties they are today. Many parents have also expressed the same sentiment. That should not be the case! The "privileged" should not be receiving better services when it is the responsibility of WJUSD to provide quality education to our students. You have failed to do so!

We are long past the initial adjustment period of the pandemic. It is time you hold yourself accountable to the same high standards we are holding you accountable. Half measures are not acceptable.

Please reconsider the options you have selected and come to a better solution that gets our kids into the classroom. I understand the schedules might not reflect what they once were; however, these kids need in-person learning. The social aspect is equally as important as education. We cannot have the social aspect when they are only on campus roughly 8 or 10 partial days per month when they previously had 20 full days. This is a less than a half measure. We are better than that!

Sincerely,
Mindi

WJUSD School Board Trustees and Superintendent,

We appreciate the work that has been done in planning for a potential April 12th opening date for our schools and the secondary options presented to the community within just few days following the school boards vote to address an opening date and inclusion of all grades TK-12 in that re-opening for a vote tonight. We are writing to express our continued support of re-opening schools, express our thoughts regarding a secondary option, and request the board gain clarification around content and delivery surrounding concurrent teaching. While we as a community would appreciate a date of opening schools sooner than 4/12 we also recognize where we are at as a school district in planning for re-opening and realize there are many logistical challenges staff will face. Our community is advocating for opening schools as quickly as can safely be done at this time and we highly encourage our school board trustees to take any action necessary to honor the commitment made by last week's vote to open schools on April 12th. If it can be done sooner, we fully support an earlier return date. Any delays are unacceptable, given that our children will have been out of school for over a year already.

Initially, we as a family felt secondary hybrid instruction Option #1 (2 days in person; 3 days virtual instruction/week) would be the best option for our students so they had some time on campus with teachers and peers each week. However, upon further consideration we thought this could potentially be more disruptive for all students to have part of their school week in school and part of their school week out of school which would call for a separate routine and separate set of expected behaviors. For example in school they will be expected to be wearing a mask for the two days; then the remaining three days not wearing a mask at home. Another example may be in school students would need to attend to a live teacher and display participation such raising a hand to ask a question or contribute to a group discussion with live peers during group work 2 days a week then for the remaining 3 days a week attend to a screen with their camera and mic likely off and be placed in a break out room possibly with other peers they may not even chat with during the remainder of the period. While it is not ideal to have students moving back and fourth between these types of scenarios at all, it does seem that separating these scenarios by week blocks opposed to 2 days in and 3 days out of class within the same week would provide for more stability and consistency in children's learning. One may liken this to a child living with one parent half the week and another the second half of the week opposed to alternating weeks. In our experience it seems the children who are on alternating week schedule always do better social and emotionally especially when it comes to school.

This past week we have heard many concerns from our valued teachers in the school district regarding what it will look like or consist of for their roles to teach to multiple groups simultaneously. Taking these concerns into consideration it would also provide the highest level of support to teachers in the classroom to deliver a model such as Option #2 (one week in the classroom; one week virtual learning-alternating through the end of the school year) as this higher level of consistency in expectations across students will help them all to adhere better to expectations. If students can adhere to expectations more consistently this will aide teachers in what they have been tasked to do. We would also ask that our district consider any and all resources in supporting our teachers through this time of concurrent teachers (i.e. possible para-educators in each classroom to help facilitate technology and support live students as

needed throughout participation). We do have great concern moving forward into next fall as to how teachers will be supported and concurrent teaching can be eliminated. It is our hope we see a virtual academy put in place prior to beginning of next school year as not to continue this expectation of teachers for families who choose not to return and no longer accept a decreased quality of learning content delivered to our students.

Option #3 for secondary instruction is not even a small consideration for any of us as that is already happening. As parents we have had to seek out alternatives for our children in anyway they could receive enrichment. As far as the majority of their education it would still be all virtual which is no different than now. Lastly, it would be highly inequitable as those groups brought on campus during asynchronous learning periods are all going to be driven by student need, student interests, and assessment of letter grades which is only one measure of learning and not something that gives a full picture of any child.

Parents of the district also encourage the board to direct staff to begin the planning necessary to move to phase 4 in-person learning with restrictions. Last fall our board directed the district to have plans underway for Phase III, so as soon as we possibly were allowed to open there would be no more delay. It does not seem that happened as now we have another 8 weeks to wait and while we are happy that will allow educators and school staff who choose to be vaccinated to obtain it we also want to remind our board that we do not support that COVID vaccines are a pre-requisite for our students to go back to school. We as a community are compromising again to allow all of our educators to have access to that vaccine...we respectfully ask you as a district compromise and begin planning for Phase IV now so as soon as we have shown success in Phase III we can progress with re-opening schools. With positivity rates in our county plummeting and vaccine availability becoming more wide spread we anticipate this is coming sooner than later. Please be prepared.

School board trustees we ask you to please consider the following:

- 1) Holding the district accountable in honoring your vote to direct school in beginning a TK-12 hybrid model on 4/12
- 2) Only consider Option #1 or Option #2 for secondary hybrid instruction
- 3) Provide direction to the district to begin planning for Phase IV, so as soon as we as a district demonstrate we can safely operate under Phase III guidelines there will be NO more delay.
- 4) Urge our school district to consider planning for and having a virtual academy in place for next fall to support both our teachers roles and the quality of our children's education

We will continue to advocate for the full re-opening of schools as public health guidance allows. It is undoubtedly what is best for our children.

Brian and Ann Christison, WJUSD parents for re-opening schools

Hello,

My name is Greta Eoff, parent to an 8th grader at Lee middle school, a seventh grader who has recently transferred to Woodland Christian, and wife to a teacher at Lee middle school.

Please, I am asking you to do whatever it takes to open our campus on April 12, 2021. If private schools are open, and other schools across California and the nation can figure this out, I know you can too. I have confidence in this board of trustees.

The mental and physical health of our children depend on it. The future of our community is at stake.

Thank you
Warm regards,
Greta Eoff

Hi there-

Dana Anglin coming at you from Pioneer High School PE Department. I'm so happy that we may be able to get back to school, but I have some concerns that I was hoping you could clarify for me. So, I was just wondering how PE will roll for the remainder of the year if we go back to school. Will kids be getting dressed for PE in the locker room together? Will we all be meeting in the gym together? Where will we house the kids on days of incimate weather or fire days where we are not supposed to have kids outside? Will PE be modified because kids won't be dressing out? Will kids go home for PE and come back for their academic classes? I'm confused. Please let me know your thoughts on what your vision might be on this. Thanks so much for your time.

My name is Brigit Huxsoll and have 3 children attending WJUSD and hope to have 4 attending once again soon, so long as the schools do indeed open. I wrote last week to urge you to open the schools. I am so grateful that you set a date and that you included all grade levels. My teenager needs to attend in person as much as her younger siblings if not more so. Today I want to ask that you only consider options 1 and 2 for secondary hybrid instruction. Option 3 where they would only have limited time on campus after the school day would be unacceptable.

As negotiations go on with the teachers union I beg you to hold strong on the date you set. If an earlier date for the opening of schools could happen that would be even better but we just cannot delay past April 12. My second grader is starting to struggle more each day. Between technology issues and being isolated from his peers he has hit a wall. He is not himself anymore. We cannot continue with distance learning any longer.

If we do not open as planned I know more people will leave the district to find in person options which are becoming more and more available each day. Please do the right thing and open our schools for all students as planned on April 12 if not sooner.

Thank you

My name is Gina Huxsoll and I am a 9th grader attending Pioneer High School. I would really like to get back to in person school because it is safe and I miss it. It is now safe and many other schools were successful in reopening. It will help students learn better and improve their mental well being. It is important that we get back to in person school as soon as possible.

Option 1 is the best option because it will allow students to see their friends and teachers each week. It will allow teachers to check in with their students and it will allow teachers to monitor tests and quizzes . With the students rotating throughout the week, they will be at the same pace and it will work the smoothest.

Thank you, Gina Huxsoll

Dear Superintendent Pritchard and Members of the Board

I am a high school teacher currently working at Pioneer High School. Given the scheduling options presented to you, I strongly urge you to choose scheduling option 3, which keeps classes virtual but allows for in person opportunities during the after school Coordinated Student Support Time. There are more obstacles to reopening at the high school level than can really be counted, but please consider the following challenges posed by schedule options 1 and 2

1. First and foremost, “in person” will not mean what I think most people think it means at the secondary level. With schedule options 1 and 2, there will always be more students at home than in class. Given the requirement that teachers teach concurrently to students at home and in class, this means that the teaching will cater to the majority - the kids learning virtually. The students in person will be seated, with a mask on, logged into Zoom on their chrome books in the classroom, getting the exact same lessons as the kids at home - just in a more uncomfortable, restrictive environment. They won't be able to snack while they work. They won't be able to get up and move around. They likely will have more trouble hearing their teacher, who will be at their desk, wearing two masks. I desperately want parents listening to hear this - It will NOT look “normal” in the way so many of us want it to look. Not because we don't want it to, but because logistically, it can't.
2. Counselors will be expected to create entirely new master schedules to track 3 separate cohorts of students who will be both in person and at home. Changes in the master schedule at this late point in the school year may mean that teachers change teaching placements and students change teachers, uprooting any consistency they've had and shattering relationships that teachers have worked hard to build with their kids. This is harmful to our students' mental health and disruptive to their learning, not to mention an enormous burden on our counseling staff who should be putting time and energy into scheduling for the next school year, which will likely pose its own challenges.
3. Once on campus, we will have no way of containing the spread of students from one class to another. Students who are grouped together during 1st period will all disperse

to different classrooms second period, and mingle with different students. The amount of contact students will have with each other is high, and despite “social distancing”, this mixing greatly increases the risk of spreading contamination. These will not be “small, stable cohorts” of students because students all have different schedules and move to different places throughout the day. Not to mention the lack of control when students change classes, use the bathroom during passing period, or gather in the cafeteria at lunch.

Please listen to the staff members who are reaching out to you and actually hear us. We WANT to go back to work and see our kids - but not like this. There are too many practical and logistical issues with the proposed schedules, and uprooting students in the name of “reopening” with only 7 weeks remaining in the school year after the proposed opening date seems like energy that could be better spent elsewhere. Vote to approve calendar option 3, keep core classes virtual, and let students get the benefit of in person time at school where it matters for their heads and hearts - at club meetings, lab experiments, tutoring and counseling sessions, and small group interventions. This is the best way to meet the needs of our students.

Thank you,
A Concerned Teacher

Dear WJUSD board and Superintendent Pritchard,

My name is Trista Kennedy. I am the mother of three students in the Woodland joint unified school district. My oldest attends Pioneer high school (11th grade) and my two youngest attend Gibson Elementary (2nd & 4th grades). I am a member of the Gibson school site council, PTA and I’m on the Gibson safety/Covid committee.

First in for most, thank you to the board for unanimously taking action on moving forward with bringing our kids back to school. I do think we can do better and get them back in the classroom sooner and safely. I urge you to consider this so our children can be back to in person learning sooner than April 12th in some form or fashion.

In reviewing the options being presented at this evenings board meeting, along with talking with my High school daughter, we both agree that Option #1 would be the best. She is very much looking forward to having face time at least once a week with each of her teachers as she is struggling with school during distance-learning. She is so eager to be going back to school that she asked me last night to update her on the board meeting decisions tonight. I’m sure she would watch but honestly the board meetings are a bit too long for our students to watch and remain engaged.

The students that you took an oath to serve are watching you and understand that their future lies in your hands. You have been elected to be the decision makers and as a community of parents, students and teachers, we are watching you and praying that you make the best

decision for our students. The science is there to show that we can go back to in person learning safely right now. It has been almost a year and we need to move forward and get our kids back in school before more unneeded time passes.

In closing, I would just like to share that I very much look forward to the day that my two youngest children do not cry because they have to go online again for another day. I look forward to not hearing them complain at the end of the day how much their eyes hurt or that they have a headache. I look forward to the day that my fourth grader doesn't share with me how much she feels lonely because she doesn't have any friends and no one cares. I look forward to the day that my high school student wants to get out of bed to attend school. I look forward to the day when we're back to in person learning and I don't have to go to sleep at night wondering how to deal with the depression and anxiety my kids go through every day because of the school shut down.

We are all counting on you to do what is best and safe for our students. At this point, opening schools sooner than later with a viable and solid option for the most in person learning is what is best.

Thank you for your time,

Trista Kennedy

Dear Members of the Board, and Community Members,

There are several concerns that I believe need addressing before a safe reopening can be put in place, or even considered, given Pioneer High School has approximately 1400 students, and nearly 100 faculty members.

1. What will be the procedure for quarantining students and teachers who travel outside of California during spring break, or for Club sports?
2. How will the necessary on-site testing be performed, and how often?
3. Will classrooms be cleaned between classes? If so, how will this be handled? And by whom?
4. How will students and staff safely move about the campus with social distancing in consideration?
5. How will bathroom use be monitored, and by whom? Protocol dictates only two people are permitted to use it at a time.
6. What PPE/safety supplies will be provided in each classroom and in the common areas? Who will be responsible for providing these items, and who will restock them?
7. How will proper mask protocol be enforced? Who will be responsible for enforcement? What will that look like?
8. What about the school air filtration system? Will Plexiglass guards be provided in the classrooms?
9. Even with in-person class sizes reduced by 50%, 6-foot social distancing will not be possible because of our large class sizes and small classrooms.

It is my understanding that three different schedules were presented as possibilities. I am unsure of exactly who recommended Schedule A, as none of the faculty members I have spoken with were asked about any of the proposed schedules.

For the safety of the students, and teachers, I would encourage you to relook at Schedule C as an alternate schedule that would allow for students to come on-campus in small, safe cohorts. I know we all want the same time, a safe, supportive environment for our students, teachers, and community.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Ott
Pioneer High School
Teacher for 32 Year

Dear WJUSD School Board,

First, I want you to know that I appreciate that the board made a public statement regarding the prioritization of vaccines for teachers and school staff. Vaccinations are a huge step towards safely reopening the schools and protecting the Woodland community.

However, vaccinations are not the only consideration. Before we can reopen safely, all other mitigation strategies must be in place. I am concerned that this will be an incredible logistical challenge at the high school level, where students take five to seven classes per day, and teachers come into contact with 150+ students per day. Even when these numbers are halved, it will be impossible to achieve 6-foot physical distancing, given our large class sizes and small rooms. Additionally, because students change classes every period--meaning not just rooms, but classmates and teachers--it will not be possible to cohort students and teachers, which greatly increases the risk of coronavirus transmission and makes contact tracing and quarantining very difficult.

In my last letter, I gave you a list of mitigation protocols, including the availability of asymptomatic testing for students and staff; clearly defined processes and staffing for notification, quarantining, and contact tracing; Merv-13 air filters; and portable air purifiers, such as Medify MA 40 or similar. In addition to physical distancing, masking, and frequent sanitization, these strategies are part of the "swiss cheese" approach touted by our county health officer, and they need to be in place before we ask students to return to campus.

Other concerns that must be addressed to protect our students and staff, and their families, are quarantining after spring break travel, monitoring masking and social distancing during passing periods and at lunch, and monitoring the bathrooms.

Additionally, families must be fully aware of how each potential schedule will affect their children. If you approve High School Option 1, students will only be attending school for two days per week. This means that they will attend each class in person once per week. Option 2 means that students will only attend in-person classes every other week. With either option, while in classrooms, students and their teachers will be masked and physically

distanced. Students and teachers will not be able to drink water or have snacks during class, nor will they be able to move around or work in groups. Given that on any day most students will still be learning virtually, the educational experience will not be much changed from the virtual learning we have now, but the risks will be greatly increased, while the rewards of in-person learning will be relatively small.

With all of this in mind, and as much as I want to see my students in person, I think Option 3 may be the best choice. It will be the least educationally disruptive at this point, but will still allow for safer in-person opportunities in the afternoons.

I appreciate your careful consideration of this complicated issue.

Lisa Gaskill

Dear President Whitaker and Trustees,

My name is Whitney Prawl and I'm a History Teacher at Douglass Middle School. I am writing to you in regards to the item N.1 agenda for tonight's Board Meeting. I'm hopeful that this will be read before the presentation to review the potential plans for reopening for the secondary schools.

I would first like to thank the board members for continuing to move us forward in the reopening process and choosing a reopening date that allows us to prepare the logistics for a safe and effective reopening. I did have some questions that I'm hoping to have answered that were unclear in tonight's presentation slides.

When Secondary Schools return in person:

- Will we be sanitizing desks between class periods? If so, will this be the responsibility of the teachers?
- Will student desks have plexiglass partitions?
- Will teacher desks have plexiglass partitions?
- If the model of concurrent teaching is approved, what is your vision of how this will look in the classroom? Will the teacher be limited to staying at their desk so they can interact with students online as well as in the classroom?
- If you are encouraging teachers to walk around the room and help students in person, how do we help meet the needs of students interacting online? Is this equitable?
- How will we monitor students who arrive late to class and need to be let in?
- Will attendance be taken the same way it is now? As of now, I not only have to report if a student is in attendance but also if they are engaged and working on the day's

assignment. This has the potential to be much more difficult when I'm trying to teach 2 separate groups of students simultaneously. (Imagine trying to hold a meeting in person with online participants, while trying to answer questions in the chat bar and in person and monitoring people unmuting their microphones to speak)

- It's my understanding that the District is considering purchasing web cams to mount in the classroom so teachers can walk around the room. This raises many concerns about equity access of information for students at home who then would have difficulty seeing the information slides that I'm presenting for the day.
- Does the District intend to apply for the state testing waiver? To bring students back for 9 weeks and spend potentially several of those weeks testing seems ridiculous and inequitable. We wouldn't be testing academics but instead be testing access to information. State Superintendent Tony Thurmond encourages districts in California to apply for the waiver.
- Finally, Is the District considering offering an online academy next year?

Thank you very much for taking the time to answer my questions, I look forward to more clarity on the expectations of what your vision of a secondary classroom will look like.

Sincerely,
Whitney Prawl

Hello,

First and foremost, I'd like to thank you all for advocating for teachers to be vaccinated as quickly as possible.

While plans to reopen are very exciting for teachers, students, parents, and all else involved, I have some major concerns with the expectation that teachers at the 9-12 level are to teach concurrently. I have talked about the process and logistics of concurrent teaching with other teachers at different districts who have/are doing it, and it appears that the students attending in-person are essentially doing the same thing as they would be at home, but with more risk.

I am all for a safe re-opening, but the expectation that teachers are to teach students online *and* in-person at the same time is unrealistic and really, won't be better for the students and will just add even more to teacher's plates. As a teacher, I am already so overwhelmed with all that is happening, and I feel that we should have a say in what we think is best for students and having a teacher whose mind is in two places at once is not that. Kids who are attending in-person and virtually need to have all the attention on their group at once. It is not fair to them to have a teacher split in two. With that being said, I say that 9-12 either remains online for the last 2 months of the school year or the option 3 schedule is adopted. Or a new schedule that doesn't require teachers to be in two places at once.

Thank you for your time.

Good evening,

I am emailing in regards to agenda item N.1.

I find it appalling our school district is so determined to send back teachers and students during a time where cases are only going down due to a lack of close social interaction. This is the same district that has made it very difficult for staff to get vaccinated and has had us rely on each other and word of mouth to be able to safely receive a vaccine, and seems to forget we have students and parents who may not yet be eligible for the vaccine.

1. I want first to address the issue of **work load**. Hybrid learning is an extreme amount of work on already exhausted teachers who are trying their best to stay afloat with mental health and work/life balance during a pandemic. We will be working for no extra pay, and doing twice the work. I have heard concerns from teachers in other school districts that it is a large challenge to do the work of two classes, be expected to teach live, and be expected to teach virtually at the same time while also managing classroom behavior. This means higher chances of students disengaged, and lower quality lessons. This event is likely to snowball until teachers are burnt out, and the ones who get left behind are our students.

2. I am also concerned about how abrupt this transition is in regards to a) safety and b) student and staff preparedness.

2.a What safety measures will be in place? When asked over the summer, HR and maintenance didn't even have answers on how well new filters would work or how often they would be placed. The M&O representative also did not believe in the science of Covid-19 being transmitted by air conditioning. **Why even spend money on on-site school, when we SHOULD have been spending that money on making sure students had better hot spots, computers, and other equitable materials?**

2.b Shifting to a hybrid model and overloading teachers at this point in time is going to be disruptive for student's learning. The reason students are disengaged it is it a **GLOBAL PANDEMIC, WHERE PEOPLE THEY KNOW ARE GETTING SICK AND DYING IF NOT PERMANENTLY INJURED, THEY ARE STUCK INSIDE AND ISOLATED BECAUSE OUR COUNTRY IS NOT TAKING PROPER HEALTHCARE MEASURES TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE SAFE AND TAKEN CARE OF.** A sudden switch in learning is going to be a mess.

I do not feel safe in WJUSD's hands. I have not seen any comforting evidence that my district cares about my safety or ensuring my classroom is safe. We should wait to return to in person learning when it is safe to do so for EVERYONE.

This is still a pandemic. We all want to get back to normal, but we can't do that by just closing our eyes and pretending it's gone away. Teachers are not free day care. We are human beings and so are our students who also deserve to be stress free.

I hope you all make the safer, empathetic choice that keeps your entire community safe.

Thank you.

Dear President Whitaker and Trustees,

I am a Paraprofessional for the District and a parent with 1 child in the special education program and 1 senior in high school. I am writing to you in regards to the item N.1 agenda for tonight's Board Meeting. I ask that this be read before the presentation to review the potential plans for reopening for the secondary schools.

Thank you for continuing to move forward in the reopening process and choosing a reopening date that allows us to prepare the logistics for a safe and effective reopening. I did have some questions that I'm hoping to have answered that were unclear in tonight's presentation slides.

- On slide 8, the second bullet on the con side states "concurrent instruction will require adjustment for teachers and students".
 - Has the District reached out to teachers and paraprofessionals that work in classrooms to try and understand the types of adjustments and likely problems that will need to be addressed?
 - How will a para provide support for students in person at the same time as supporting students online?
 - How will either staff member know when a student is asking a question in the chat box?
 - How will either staff member know when a student turns on their camera?
- On slide 8, the third bullet on the con side states "additional technology may be needed to support concurrent instruction"
 - I have heard that this may be a webcam in the back of the room.
 - Is this going to be a zoom meeting as it is now or will be conducting webinar type meetings?
 - Will this technology be compatible with Canvas?

Both of the bullets and questions above apply to options 1 and 2. Option 3 really can't be a serious option because it is seriously inequitable in a variety of ways. I'm certain I don't need to list them for you.

At what point will the Board direct the District to seek input and advice from the employees that are doing the job? There should be input from employees at each site for Elementary and the Secondary level. I feel like I need to be specific about the input because I know a board member will ask if teachers gave input to these schedules and the response will be that staff gave input. This is always the answer. Let's be specific about who is giving the input.

I also think it would be beneficial to the Board if they started asking specifically how many staff members we are down in each job type to see how much more work employees are taking on. Do we have enough bus drivers to run all the routes? Do we have enough paras to cover the needs of the students? What will the process for substitutes be?

I do understand that a lot of these questions are not answerable right now, but they should be asked well before you vote on something that will have a huge impact on the employees and students. It would be great to get to a place where the District is planning for the future instead of scrambling to put out fires. It would also be great if the District was able to come to a board meeting and say these are the options we have put together, this is how it will work, these are the items we will need to implement these options, and we have worked with both Unions to be ready when we get the go-ahead. If that were to have happened, we may have been able to open earlier than April 12th.

I also sincerely hope the District will direct Tom to apply for the state testing waiver. We would only be testing access, instead of academics. Not to mention how do we do that in a hybrid setting? Again inequitable. But maybe the District has a plan thought out for this.

If this board of trustees means what it says with all of their talk of keeping the mental health of teachers and students in mind, the talk of concurrent teaching should be over. Right now, WJUSD seems to be perfectly fine with the number of student/teacher contacts under Virtual Learning.

I don't see why this has to change. Concurrent teaching will just add another layer of stress to both of the front line groups. Students will now have twice the amount of class, as will teachers. Teachers will have the added burden of figuring out how to broadcast their classes (with little to no training, as par for WJUSD).

All this for a month and a half of school. To appease a vocal group of parents, and grub for state funding

Don't get me wrong. I will come back willingly, because face to face is best for students. But concurrent instruction will be what proves whether WJUSD truly cares about the mental health of teachers and students alike.

Mike Owens
WHS teacher.
LMS Parent.

Hello Board of Trustees,

My name is Becca Bernard and I am a science teacher at Douglass Middle School. I am sending my public comment twice because last week my voicemail was not listened to during the Board Meeting. If my public comment voicemail is played tonight, you may disregard this public comment.

This public comment is in reference to agenda item N.1. Options for Secondary In-person Instruction Beginning April 12.

As this board prepares to make a serious decision impacting secondary in-person instruction, I implore you to consider the following situation:

You are sitting in person in a room with 10-15 constituents, and have an open zoom streaming your board meeting to 10-15 more constituents. All of these members are important. Remember, you are also wearing a mask which inhibits the people at home from understanding you well. You also need to juggle monitoring the chat in the zoom and answering questions to the people sitting in the room. Suddenly, someone in the back of the room has a technology issue. You walk to the back, staying 6 feet apart, trying to troubleshoot. In the 5 minutes you're gone, the chat has had multiple questions as well as an inappropriate message that you weren't there to catch. How do you manage this situation properly? How do you ensure that the people in the room are receiving equal and adequate attention at the same time as the people in the zoom? The answer is plain and simple: you cannot. This model of teaching is not sustainable and is not the best option for both students and teachers.

We have the benefit of looking to other districts as examples, many districts have tried teaching concurrently. Many of them have admitted openly that it is a failure to both the students in person and the students online. We cannot be in two places at once and do our jobs to the best of our ability. Students in other districts that have tried this have shared that when they are online, they feel neglected because they are receiving less attention than when their school was in full distance learning. Students in these same districts share frustrations that they are sitting in a classroom on a zoom receiving the exact same lessons they could be getting from the comfort of their own home.

Please, before making this decision for hybrid secondary instruction schedules, consider the negative impact that concurrent instruction would have on the quality of education our students are receiving.

As always, thank you for prioritizing the health and safety of our community.

Regards,

Becca Bernard

Dear Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,

Thank you for your hard work for the students of Woodland. Today Leanee Medina Estrada sent an inflammatory email to Woodland teachers that was also made public. In the email she bashed WJUSD teachers and their union, and provided false information. Specifically, about a timetable for return and a day without students. She inflamed a community that is already under strain.

WJUSD teachers deserve a higher level of respect than what they received today and so do their union. Teachers are constantly being scapegoated for societal failures. This time, for having the audacity to care about their personal safety, the safety of their loved ones, and that of the community during an unprecedented global pandemic that has killed more than 400k

Americans, including educators. The constant defunding of education has contributed to this crisis because classrooms are overcrowded and old with poor ventilation. This is in no way the fault of WJUSD teachers or their unions. This teacher bashing should have no place in the administration of WJUSD.

As a family member of a WJUSD teacher, I see firsthand the work and unpaid overtime that has gone into creating distance learning. Please, let this administrator know in no uncertain terms that teacher bashing will not be accepted at WJUSD. Most in the community support the full vaccination of teachers.

Thank you

Dear President Whitaker, Members of the Board of Trustees and WEA President Shilen,

I am a parent of children in kindergarten and 3rd grade at WJUSD schools.

What I'm most concerned about now, is that we're fighting (1) the inertia of teachers who have settled into virtual instruction, and (2) fear (for which no amount of science and data will reduce). The longer kids stay virtual, the harder it is for teachers to step foot on campus.

Please push to switch to hybrid before spring break. March 15th marks two weeks after the next group of students returns to campus. If teachers need a week before in-person, then hybrid could start March 22nd.

I'm frustrated and confused at our slow pacing for reopening. The latest date for potentially commencing in-person hybrid is April 19th. Why has it taken so long? And, why is the start date still two months out?

The reports from my friends with kids in public school in Loomis and Napa who started in-person hybrid last fall have been glowing. I know three is a "small sample size," but life improved dramatically for all three of these kids and their families. Essentially, once the students started spending a few hours a week in-person, their attitudes towards school improved dramatically. They became more engaged during the virtual parts of school. In turn, they fought less with their parents about virtual school, leading to more harmony at home.

The 3rd grader in Loomis has had in-person canceled twice because of potential exposure. His mom felt the school did an excellent job communicating with the family and that they seamlessly slid back into virtual for those periods. The 2nd and 5th graders in Napa have not had classes cancelled at all.

The 2nd grader's teacher is teaching to both in-person cohorts AND 100% virtual kids and it's going fine.

Last week, the 3rd grader in Loomis started attending school for full days, four days a week. His

mom was amazed that this contributed to another amazing improvement in attitude and behavior. The Napa students increase to five days a week on March 1.

I mention the experiences of my friends because they seem to dispute some of the excuses I'm hearing for why we can't go back in-person. Furthermore, it illustrates that surrounding districts have made in-person happen. I know this is an extremely complicated situation, but it's not impossible.

I recognize that my friends and I are privileged and in a better position than most to accommodate "weird" and/or changing school schedules. However, a lot of families from different socio-economic levels, including those hit hardest by the pandemic, will also be able to make hybrid work.

Getting WJUSD students back on campus for a few hours a week is the next step in reopening. I hope you will make it happen before April 19th so our community can continue moving forward and helping our public school kiddos and their families.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jenny Lillge

While I appreciated the caution that the school district showed in protecting our kids, it is now time to listen to science and the experts. Our kids need to be in school - distance learning is a misnomer - there is no learning! Our kids are failing - even the top students. This doesn't begin to address the collateral damage that this is causing. I now have a suicide in my family of a child who just couldn't deal with it any longer. I am watching first hand what it is doing to my granddaughter who is working all day long in a home by herself (so that her parents can work) - on the days I observe, there has not been one time when all of the classroom is logged on - the kids have shut down.

Other schools are open with no worse positivity than what is occurring locally. They are not having issues. Please do not govern by fear; listen to the experts, but find a way to open the schools, not just K-6, but middle and high schools as well.

From what I read, this sounds to be more of a union issue. That leads me to believe that the district does not understand 'negotiation' - that means a meeting of the minds, not a list of demands that must be followed or else. Do not allow the union (who is representing its own interests) to dictate the needs of the children - that is your job.

Please please please open the schools - all of them. Our kids deserve better.

Georgia Cochran

This message is similar to what I sent last week but with a few updates.

First - **thank you** to the school board for agreeing that **all of our children** need to be in school, not just K-6. That said, 2 one-half days per week is not enough - and needing another SIX weeks to set this in motion when the kids have been out nearly a year is completely unacceptable.

Our kids need to be back in the classroom period. I know of many kids in other districts who have been in school full time since last fall without incident. Nothing is fail safe - the Hong Kong flu was not fail safe, but at least the kids did not become pawns. Please move heaven and earth to find ways to get our kids back to some assemblance of normalcy sooner rather than later.

Georgia Cochran

Last week's message:

While I appreciated the caution that the school district showed in protecting our kids, it is now time to listen to science and the experts. Our kids need to be in school - distance learning is a misnomer - there is no learning! Our kids are failing - even the top students. This doesn't begin to address the collateral damage that this is causing. I have a suicide in my family of a child who just couldn't deal with the isolation and remote learning (or lack of learning) any longer. I am watching first hand what it is doing to my granddaughter who is working all day long in a home by herself (so that her parents can work) - on the days I observe, there has not been one time when all of the classroom is logged on - so many kids have shut down.

Other school districts are open with no worse positivity than what is occurring locally. They are not having issues. Please do not govern by fear; listen to the experts, but find a way to open the schools, not just K-6, but middle and high schools as well; the older kids need schools open as much as the younger ones do.

From what I read, this sounds to be more of a union issue. That leads me to believe that the district does not understand 'negotiation' - that means a meeting of the minds, not a list of demands that must be followed or else. Do not allow the union (who is representing its own interests) to dictate the needs of the children - that is your job.

Please please please open the schools - all of them. **Our kids deserve better.**

Georgia Cochran

Dear Board of Trustees,

Can someone please bring up next meeting for schools to try to expedite the scheduling part of the hybrid schedule? I know they won't be back in class until April 12th but for working parents knowing ahead of time what days/times our kids will be in school will make it easier to plan drop offs and pick ups. In these Covid times car pooling or asking another parent the favor of picking up your child isn't the safest or smartest. Thank you.

Monica Sanchez

Good afternoon WJUSD trustees, I would like to submit this email for public comment to be read during the board meeting on Feb 25th.

I first want to thank you for coming to an agreement that focuses on our students needs and will bring much light to the darkness that this past year has been. I want to ensure you that the board members who are fighting for our children are truly appreciated and you do not go unnoticed!

I am a mother to two children at Zamora Elementary and an Aunt to two more. I own a childcare business and have been closed while the district has been virtual learning to ensure that these students have the best possibility to focus and succeed. I would like to make a suggestion in regards to which hybrid option you will be voting on.

I honestly do not see how the WJUSD is unable to reopen FULLY 5 days a week. Other schools have done it and it has worked well. There will be many children remaining distance learning which will make it possible to reduce class sizes and adhere to CDC guidelines. The new suggestion for schools is 4 feet social distance and not 6 and with half the student class or even less attending, this is possible! If teachers are vaccinated, everyone is in a face mask, then what is the excuse to not allow full time 5 days a week!?

In regards to our current options, I have read that there are 3. First and foremost I would like to say that option 3 benefits very few and it is not what we have been hoping for when fighting for our children. It is an option that is not much different than what we have now and should not even be considered.

If we have to choose between 2 days in person and 3 days virtual OR 1 week in person and 1 week virtual, Option 1 is the choice that I would hope you go with. Let me explain why. I have been temporarily unemployed as many parents have been because they have needed to be with their children during virtual learning. As a parent who has been waiting to go back to work, it will be near impossible to do so with a 1 week on and 1 week off schedule like hybrid option 2 suggests. Parents that need to return to work can easily make a schedule that states they are unable to work 3 days out of the week as opposed to all of them. Children currently in childcare will be able to continue attending part time as well in this case. Many childcare centers can not afford or work around a 1 week on and 1 week off schedule.

I also feel making younger students attend school 1 week and then off 1 week is going to affect their daily routine habits. I can imagine that during the week they are "off" in person learning, it will be harder for them to focus or show the same excitement that they will during their on week. They have waited long enough to be in class with their friends and teachers, please don't make them wait every other week now! It is basically like giving them a vacation every other week and I am sure many parents or students will treat it as such.

I want to emphasize that even though all of this is "hard" and will take a lot of effort to achieve, you and all of the WJUSD staff are adults and have been put in this position for a reason.

Students have been doing what is hard for them for a year now, It is your turn now. Please do what is best for these students and get them in class regularly. You can do it. We can do it. You have the support of many WJUSD parents.

Thank you,
Shelby Berriman

Dear President Whitaker and trustees,

I am writing this email at 10:56 a.m. on Monday, February 22.

My child is 6 years old and should be in school right now. According to YOU, she should be in virtual kindergarten with a teacher right now. And yet, she's not. She's not at a school, she's not at virtual kindergarten. The reason is: The Internet is down at Dingle Elementary.

President Whitaker, Trustees, Internet issues are understandable. They're forgivable. But they are **NOT**. Forgivable. **TODAY**.

The reason this is unacceptable today is because on January 28. January 28, nearly **four weeks ago**, Dr. Aimee Sisson, the Yolo County Public Health Officer, [strongly encouraged](#) you to reopen elementary schools. You received direction from the Department of Public Health and yet you are NOT following it. The District is not following it.

I am writing because I elected you to represent me. I voted you into office to hold the district accountable.

Hold the district accountable to reopening elementary schools on March 8.

Respectfully,

Sarah

p.s. Please provide an update on Resolution 36-21: Youth Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention Initiative Related to COVID-19 Pandemic at this Thursday's board meeting. I would like an update on this initiative to be shared publicly as an agenda item.

Dear board members and WJUSD administration,

My daughter is in Mrs. Zane 3rd grade class at Plainfield Elementary. Mrs. Zane has done a great job with distant learning despite obvious struggles and frustrations. My daughter has done fine academically, she is a very driven student and loves school. She is extremely social and has become depressed from lack of peer interaction, recently the depression has caused her to develop an eating disorder. Mrs. Zane has recently started breakout rooms where the kids can interact 1 on 1, the change in her after these shows me just how much she needs her peers. She is a different kid after socializing with one of her classmates. I am happy that the district and board are moving towards in person but let me be blunt April 12th is not soon

enough! That's another 2 months, leaving very little of the school year left. By the time they get back with their friends they will shortly be ripped away, again. I think waiting until teachers are fully vaccinated is unnecessary, the experts agree also many teachers have been teaching for months unvaccinated. What about teachers not getting the vaccine, they can start, right? I find the need for more time to reopen ridiculous, it's been a year. Shouldn't things already be in place? We knew in person would happen sooner or later, I feel things should have already been done to open ASAP! I feel my daughters has done ok but is still struggling and getting worse the longer this goes on. I can't imagine kids that have struggled since day one. We need schools open NOW 2 more moths is too long! Everyday counts at this point!

Thank you,
Amy

I am a parent of children who attend Plainfield Elementary in the WJUSD. While it was refreshing to hear there is a tentative date for Phase 3 opening, April 12th, this is simply not soon enough.

The students have been physically out of the classroom for nearly a full calendar year. The ability to make up the missed in person learning, socialization with their peers, and independence that comes with being at school cannot be made up. Distance learning made sense when the pandemic was developing, we as a nation and society were figuring out just how serious this virus is and how to control it. Our students, mine included are struggling with communication with their teachers and peers as well as technical issues, whether it be storm related, internet issues at the district office or at home. These issues would simply not exist with traditional in person learning. Seeing the toll distance learning has taken both mentally and physically, cannot be taken lightly. I've spoken with many parents and our children are struggling with anger, resentment, sadness, anxiety, and depression. Not to mention the association of obesity and weight gain that comes with the feelings previously mentioned.

If classes have fewer than the 16 student maximum, are they able to attend everyday? I cannot understand how the teachers (K-6) will successfully be able to instruct students both online and physically on the classroom.

I adore my children's teachers; they are going above and beyond what they need to or should have to. I know this has taken a toll on them as well. When I pick up materials for my children, they express how much they wish they were in the classroom with their students. My children are truly in some of the hardest academic levels of elementary school. My kindergartener has not had a real school experience because of distance learning, all he knows is the computer, what a poor and quite depressing first year of school. This has truly set the tone for him, and he does not look forward to school every morning like his brother did when he was in kindergarten. My third grader, has reached the year, where instead of learning to read, they are reading to learn, learning multiplication, division, fractions, could you imagine having to learn that online, without having your teacher feet away when you have questions? Students will be

facing new curriculum next year, without having mastered this year. You may say “we are all in the same boat” however, we are not. We are all in the same storm, some of us have yachts, some have canoes, and some are drowning. Many families do not have the resources to get their children the extra help they need. Would it be a need if these students were physically in class? I truly believe, it would not.

In the last year, there has been significant strides made to get the virus under control, masks, social distancing, reiterating hand washing, and most recently the scientific advancement of the vaccine to combat and protect our population. Teachers can and should return before they are vaccinated, as many teachers have safely done this across the state, and country. The CDC has stated teachers do not need a vaccine to return. I whole heartedly agree they should be on the priority list to receive the vaccine, but they should also be in the classroom now, even if they have not received it yet. Thousands are already doing this. Many parents in our district are essential workers, nurses, grocery store workers, agriculture workers, law enforcement, fire department employees, and we did not have the option to not show up for work. We would have lost our jobs; teachers should not be treated differently. They are just as essential, if not more than they rest of us. They are teaching our children, our future, our communities future, our nations future.

WJUSD has received over \$18 million in Covid relief, where has this money gone? To parents, it seems this money has not been used for its intended purpose. It should have gone to new air filters, personal protective equipment, school supplies. The district has had a year to put safety measures into place. If WJUSD is stumped on what to do, reach out to local open school districts, or Woodland Christian for ideas on how to open safely. Woodland Christian, a school in our community, has been open safely for months.

Over the last year, we have asked children to be resilient, to roll with the punches, all while they’ve essentially given up their childhood. In person education should not be something they have had to give up for a year. Schools should open March 15th, giving three weeks to have a trial before students enter Spring Break, leaving time to work out any kinks. Students cannot make up all they have missed this last year, let’s stop the damage we are inflicting on our youth, and get these students back to class!

Thank you,
Emily

Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,

While many of us would like to see school open sooner, we understand the logistical challenges facing the district which make opening sooner unrealistic. With that in mind, we support the opening date of April 12th. It is a reasonable and realistic compromise.

As the parent group advocating for open schools, we encourage the board to take any action necessary to honor the commitment made by last week's vote to open schools on April 12th. If it can be done sooner, we fully support an earlier return date. Any delays are unacceptable, given that our children will have been out of school for over a year already.

The parents of the district also encourage the board to direct staff to begin the planning necessary to move to phase 4 in-person learning with restrictions. If current trends continue, we will be at a decision point for phase 4 sooner rather than later. With case numbers and further research supporting in-person education, any implementation delays for phase 4 due to short sightedness will be easily avoided by taking action now. We expect the board to approve plans for progressive re-opening as soon as possible, given the trends we are seeing.

We will continue to advocate for the full re-opening of schools as public health guidance allows. It is undoubtedly what is best for our children.

Becca Weitzel, WJUSD parent for re-opening schools

Dear WJUSD Superintendent & Trustees,

First, I would like to thank all of the trustees for taking the first step toward reopening our schools to in person learning for the large majority of its students. I know I speak for many parents when I tell you, I hope the motion passes & our students get back into school on April 12.

Next, I would like to urge you, to please begin to plan for the implementation of Phase 4 in the reopening process as so as we are eligible. Our students have lost out on so many critical months of instruction. They have also lost out on nearly a year of social & emotional development that distance learning cannot replicate. While phase 3 is a step in the right direction, it will not nearly be enough to make up for the loss of time, especially with the end of the school year closing in quickly. Our students need to be back in school 5 days per week as soon as possible. Thank you.

I'm in
Jackie Gness

Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,

While many of us would like to see school open sooner, we understand the logistical challenges facing the district which make opening sooner unrealistic. With that in mind, we support the opening date of April 12th. It is a reasonable and realistic compromise.

As the parent group advocating for open schools, we encourage the board to take any action necessary to honor the commitment made by last week's vote to open schools on April 12th. If it can be done sooner, we fully support an earlier return date. Any delays are unacceptable, given that our children will have been out of school for over a year already.

The parents of the district also encourage the board to direct staff to begin the planning necessary to move to phase 4 in-person learning with restrictions. If current trends continue, we will be at a decision point for phase 4 sooner rather than later. With case numbers and further research supporting in-person education, any implementation delays for phase 4 due to short sightedness will be easily avoided by taking action now. We expect the board to approve plans for progressive re-opening as soon as possible, given the trends we are seeing.

We will continue to advocate for the full re-opening of schools as public health guidance allows. It is undoubtedly what is best for our children.

Sincerely, Leilani Reiff (Pioneer High School parent for re-opening schools)

Porfavor por salud mental de nosotros los padres y por el bienestar emocional de nuestros hijos y por su nivel educativo abran las escuelas
Otras escuelas de otros condados nunca cerraron.
Queremos niños sanos en todos los sentidos.
Nuestros hijos se están quedando atrás académicamente.
Abran ya no perdamos más tiempo.

Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,

Thank you for finally setting a date for Phase 3, myself and my kids appreciate it. But, I think you can do better. Esparto schools are opening sooner, Winters schools are opening sooner, Natomas schools are opening sooner and many districts have been open for months. The joy and hopefulness of returning to school lasted about 24 hours in our house. It lasted until the realization of 7 more weeks of virtual learning set it. Our children are miserable. They are falling behind. They are depressed, anxious and lonely.

May I suggest when elementary children return, they return 5 days a week? A morning/afternoon A/B schedule would be wonderful for our kids. This would allow them to be on campus every day and remove the obstacle of teachers having to juggle in person and virtual school.

Our county COVID numbers are quickly falling and I encourage you to direct staff to begin the planning necessary to move to phase 4 in-person learning sooner rather than later. With case numbers and further research supporting in-person education, any implementation delays for phase 4 due to short sightedness will be easily avoided by taking action now. We expect the board to approve plans for progressive reopening as soon as possible, given the trends we are seeing.

Myself, along with 600 other parents who are advocating for our children's return to school, will continue to advocate for the full re-opening of schools as public health guidance allows. It is undoubtedly what is best for our children.

Thank you.

Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,

While many of us would like to see school open sooner, we understand the logistical challenges facing the district which make opening sooner unrealistic. With that in mind, we support the opening date of April 12th. It is a reasonable and realistic compromise.

As the parent group advocating for open schools, we encourage the board to take any action necessary to honor the commitment made by last week's vote to open schools on April 12th. If it can be done sooner, we fully support an earlier return date. Any delays are unacceptable, given that our children will have been out of school for over a year already.

The parents of the district also encourage the board to direct staff to begin the planning necessary to move to phase 4 in-person learning with restrictions. If current trends continue, we will be at a decision point for phase 4 sooner rather than later. With case numbers and further research supporting in-person education, any implementation delays for phase 4 due to short sightedness will be easily avoided by taking action now. We expect the board to approve plans for progressive re-opening as soon as possible, given the trends we are seeing now that teachers are being vaccinated and we are moving into the red tier.

I feel all students K-12 should be able to attend regular in person learning with safety precautions. This would also prevent teachers having to try to concurrently teach in person and virtual students at the same time.

We will continue to advocate for the full re-opening of schools as public health guidance allows. It is undoubtedly what is best for our children.

Angela Anchondo Craig
WJUSD parent for re-opening schools

Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,

As the parent group advocating for open schools, we encourage the board to take any action necessary to honor the commitment made by last week's vote to open schools on April 12th. If it can be done sooner, we fully support an earlier date (as I know many districts around us, including Winters district within Yolo county are planning an earlier return to school date). Any delays are unacceptable, given that our children will have been out of school for over a year already.

The parents of the district also encourage the board to direct staff to begin the planning necessary to move to phase 4 in-person learning with restrictions. If current trends continue, we will be at a decision point for phase 4 sooner rather than later. With case numbers and further research supporting in-person education, any implementation delays for phase 4 due to short sightedness will be easily avoided by taking action now. We expect the board to approve plans for progressive re-opening as soon as possible, given the trends we are seeing.

We will continue to advocate for the full re-opening of schools as public health guidance allows. It is undoubtedly what is best for our children.

Kris Green,
WJUSD parent (Evan 10th grade, Allie 8th grade and Kate 6th grade) for re-opening schools

Hello,

My name is Shea Lillard and I have a 1st grader. Before she entered kindergarten, we made the big decision to buy a home that would make Plainfield our home school. We loved the teachers, families, and small school feel. Sadly, our daughter wasn't able to finish out her kindergarten year, in the classroom.

Now, almost a year later, we are still at home distance learning. We absolutely love Plainfield, our Principal, and teachers. My daughter's teacher is amazing and does everything she can to provide a "classroom" experience for the students. I hear her go above and beyond, day after day. I can't imagine being a teacher right now in these uncharted waters. As the days go by, as I wait patiently (or try to) for changes, my daughter is falling further and further behind. She is not cut out for online/distance learning. She's having a hard time focusing and retaining, she cries every single day, and she now says, "I hate school!" She has always been shy and slow to warm up to change, but by mid Kindergarten, she was blossoming and full of interest and confidence. Now her confidence is rapidly decreasing and my heart is breaking.

This week I made the huge decision to pull her out of Plainfield and the Woodland Joint Unified School District. We applied to Woodland Christian School a few months ago. There is a waitlist right now for this year and next. I filed a Private School Affidavit and purchased homeschool curriculum. I will spend the next few months building her back up and preparing her for 2nd grade.

I can't wait any longer. I have no more patience. My daughter is suffering. I wish I would have stepped in sooner. I look at my happy, loving family, with one parent working and the other at home (by choice), roof over our heads, food in the fridge, and bills paid. What privilege we have to even have these basic necessities. What privilege we have to step in and make change where we see fit. I fear for those children who are being left behind. Families who can't make ends meet, and kids who are left at home to fend for themselves.

Please open the schools. The families and kids are depending on you to represent and fight for them.

Sincerely,
Shea Lillard

Hello,

I am the mother of two elementary aged students, ages 5 and 11, in the WJUSD. Because of how the distance learning was handled last spring my children requested to be home schooled when the decision was made over the summer that distance learning would be continued in the fall. Both of my daughters agreed that distance learning was not beneficial to any child and husband and I agree 100%.

I am urging the school board members, to open schools immediately for full time in-person instruction. I have seen with other families the stress and anxiety it has caused so many of the children in our community. It isn't right, it isn't healthy and it needs to be remedied immediately.

Our children have become pawns of a Teacher's Union driven strike against returning to school and it is disgraceful and a huge disservice to our entire community.

We must reopen schools immediately!

Respectfully,
Jordan Waldron
My husband Nick Waldron
And our two girls Laine and Quincy

Good Morning,
Distance learning has now been proven to be an epic failure for most children. My grandkids included. They were fortunate though, as their parents had the financial means to withdraw them and enroll them at Woodland Christian School, which has been proving since August that schools can be run safely! Please don't allow the teacher's union to use these kids as their political pawns any longer!
The science is IN and it says that kids should be in school NOW and FULL TIME! Schools all around us are opening, yet Woodland lags far behind! PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE.....do what's right for these kids in K-12!!
Open the schools immediately!!

Hello 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:

1. 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.
2. I miss my friends. It is healthy for us to be social and be with our friends.

3. To be honest, I need to get out of my house. My siblings are very distracting and after 11 months I need a new environment to keep me motivated.
4. I see my brother Shane struggle with online school every day. It has been very difficult watching him struggle for almost a year now.

On behalf of the Tafoya Elementary student body, including my 2 brothers, we beg you to please let us go back to school in person immediately.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Hi Board Members,

Hi my name is Shane Van Peurse and I am in 3rd grade at Tafoya Elementary. I want to get back into the classroom with my friends.

Online school is not fun for learning and it makes our learning harder.

Being on a computer all day gives me migraines and headaches and it is not a fun way to do class

I don't like being on a computer because I don't get to see my friends in real life and it makes me sad

Schoolwork is a nightmare on the computer because everybody is very loud and it is difficult to do my work.

To help with my learning, I had to get off zoom and now I do my work on my own with my mom.

I was so looking forward to playing at recess with my little brother this year like I was able to do last year with my big brother. I hope I still have time to do that.

I hope you are able to bring us back very soon. Thank you for your time.

Members of the school board,

I am the mother of 3 children who attend Plainfield Elementary School. We are new to the district after transferring our kids from a local private school earlier in the school year. We are nothing but impressed with the distance learning and would especially like to thank Mr. Ramirez, Miss Skaug, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. DeLemos for their hard work this year.

If the district moves forward with in person classes this year, my family, if we chose to go back, commits to proper mask wearing, social distancing, and not gathering with members outside of our household. We will do our best to prevent spread of Covid in our community.

Thank you for your hard work and commitment to our schools!
Brooke Lopez

I am the parent of 3 Gibson Elementary students in support of returning to full time, in person instruction for TK-12th grade before April 12th.

My spouse is a first responder and I run a business that provides essential services. We are fortunate to have continued working this year. Within the last year my children have played in parks. We go to the grocery store/Costco/Target almost daily. We have eaten in tons of restaurants. We have traveled to other cities and states. We have stayed in hotel rooms. We have played at beaches, lakes. We play with other kids often. Often indoors. We have signed up for baseball practice last Fall. We have attended large holiday and birthday gatherings. We have hugged and kissed grandparents and even great grandparents. Fortunately, we have not once come into contact with COVID. We have done as many essential activities as we could. If we were able to safely do all of these activities, why can't we be in school?

Despite our best efforts to maintain as normal of a lifestyle as we could for the sake of our children's mental health, they are depressed. The mundane days of sitting idly in a chair, staring at a computer screen, has damaged their mental health. They once loved and thrived in school. Now they hate school. This is not ok!

Mental health is essential. Having a childhood is essential. Friends, teachers, and classrooms are essential. Living in a locked down life of fear like the Teacher's Union wants us to do is not essential. Please, for the sake of all that is essential- get our kids and teachers back to school now!

Dear WJUSD board,
The kids have suffered enough. Please put the kids first and please up our schools.
Woodland Christian, all the schools in CA and around the US have shown that there is no "in class" Covid transmission.
Please do the right thing and open up our schools!
Thank you
Steve Rosen
Woodland Ca

Hi, my name is Levi Brown and I am writing this letter to ask you for help. I need help in school, and I can only get it when I go to school and RSP at school not on the computer. Please open schools for me, my sister and my cousins, we miss our friends, we miss playing with them and eating lunch with them, we miss our teachers and I miss my principal at Zamora elementary. I want to play soccer with my friends I want to see my friends and me get awards again for doing good, we don't get those anymore now. We don't get to learn we get headaches from looking at the computer and my back hurts from always sitting leaning in to see and hear Zoom never works right so I cannot hear my RSP teachers and I need them, please. I have a couple learning

disabilities and ADHD computers are not fun for me they are hard and confusing and I always need help. My mom tried independent learning but that doesn't work either I need a teacher with me so if I need to ask a question and I'm too scared (I have anxiety bad bad) I can whisper it to her not ask everyone. But please do not forget about RSP, my RSP teachers and my friends in RSP I would not be this far in school if it was not for them, I need them in person they are the only ones that know how to teach me with my dyslexia, auditory processing disorder, ADHD and anxiety. This should have been my year to catch up and be a good 6th grade learner but now I am back again and it hurts, its scary, its sad, some days I feel stupid and that is not fair. Please please please open schools in person full time for all students in our schools but don't leave out RSP I really need them in person please. Thank you, sorry that was long.

Levi Brown 5th grade Zamora Elementary School

Hello, these are all responses from my distance learners at the daycare I work at to the question "Why do you want to go back to school in person Monday through Friday?" Please take the time to read these and feel their emotions, these are the voices that mean the most. Help these babies be happy and healthy again, reopen school for in person learning everyday immediately.

Levi B. 11 years old: "I need the schools back open so I can see my friends, I can do P.E. and I can do better in school maybe."

Michael G. 11 years old: "I want the schools back open so I can see my friends, I get to more active because we get to play on the playground and blacktop."

Cadience M. 6 years old: "Because you can move around more and not just sit there."

Jayla B. 7years old: Because I wanna play with my friends I miss them.

Corin B. 7 years old: because in person is way funner than online schooling, I get to see my friends and play with them. I really want to meet my teacher in person and give her a hug she always helps us."

Zade H. 9 years old: "because it's way too hard online learning and my grades need to go up again, I'm doing bad, but I try so hard, it's too fast."

This last one is heartbreaking, we remind him daily he is doing his best and we will get through it, but these are his thoughts about himself, there should be no reason he feels this way. Do what is best for the children, our future.

Hello,

My name is Alisa Hort I have 2 children at Zamora Elementary and I am urging you to open the schools for full in person instruction immediately, our children need and deserve it. My 7-year-old is a mess everyday and can barely concentrate on a computer and we have done everything even bouncy chairs, nothing works she needs to be in the class where she can ask questions and get a response immediately. She needs interaction with peers her age and her teacher. Do you remember y0our bonds with your teachers as a young child? I do and some of them shaped my life forever, our children need these teachers in their lives in person not through a screen. My 11-year-old son who is diagnosed with ADHD, dyslexia, auditory processing disorder and anxiety he needs in person teaching especially RSP! His teachers and his RSP teachers are the only reason he is where he is today and since the last 49 weeks my child has got no new learning. I am begging you to open schools and IN PERSON RSP immediately. Our children

deserve better, and our children that need RSP need that in person time, these children need school in person the most, they need to feel comfortable and confident. Most of these children cannot feel comfortable and confident when its just a face on a screen and a voice that cuts out constantly. Please let our children back in school before even more damage is done mentally, emotional, and academically.

Thank you.

Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,

I am the mother of an only child in 1st grade and I strongly encourage you to take any action necessary to honor the commitment made by last week's vote to open on April 12th. If it can be done sooner, I fully support an earlier return date. Any delays are unacceptable.

My daughter has always loved school and looked forward to going to class to learn and see friends. She's also always been extremely outgoing, active and social. During this last year, I have seen a dramatic change in her demeanor... She doesn't like school, it's a daily challenge to get her to do her work, she's gained significant weight and even if we're around other kids, she tends to go off on her own rather than interact with them as she would always previously do. Her teacher is amazing and I try my hardest to help her, but there's only so much support we can give with her teacher being virtual and me being a single, full-time working professional. Bottom-line, the CDC and public health officials have agreed that schools can open safely and it is your duty to make this happen as soon as possible. Follow the science; it can be done, it has been done and our children, including their health and well-being (mental & physical), are in desperate need of your immediate action.

Tara Anderson, WJUSD parent for re-opening schools

Dear WJUSD Board,

Distance learning is failing our children and schools need to open FULL time! I have studied the three "options" for reopening in March and they are all set up to fail and none will benefit the students on site, or from home, and not to mention this is highly unrealistic for teachers!!

Please REALLY consider the following:

Please go back and watch your Zoom board meetings from this last year! Look at all the technology errors that interrupt or fault meetings, look at wasted time trying to get everyone back on the same page, and look at the faces of how many of you appear tuned out or unengaged. (And your cameras are on, most of the kids are turned OFF!) You're adults! Imagine what our kids are dealing with!

How will teachers effectively teach a group in person and online simultaneously?

Curriculum is already watered down and cut in half! What will the students be doing during

non-instruction time?

Will the teachers be teaching the FEW hours purposed in hybrid? Or will they be required to still do standardized testing? If standardized testing, it WILL take weeks if not all of the time the kids get back on campus! The purpose of getting our kids back is to help their emotional well being, engage learning, and teach! Please make sure when our kids are back, their short time is NOT spent taking tests they HAVE NOT been prepared for!

How many students have you lost to private school and home schooling? I can guarantee those numbers will be even larger in the fall.

My family has already signed up for out of district schooling next fall and I hope the decisions you make NOW may change our plan for next school year!

If the majority of teachers have been vaccinated, why can't we open up with safety measures in place!?

You have a responsibility to find a way to get in MORE in person learning! Open earlier and full time!

Respectfully,
Kim

Good morning everyone,

I attached my 6 year old's voicemail from last week as it somehow got lost in the mix. All 3 of my kids sent them in but I only got a chance to record my youngest.

While I appreciate having a date to go back, I don't understand why we seem to be making decisions so far behind the ball. My guess is that by the time mid-April rolls around, we will be able to move to your Phase 4. Our local health officer has already stated that with the "swiss cheese" model of safety, that distancing, in alignment with the CDC and state guidelines, can move to 4 feet - not 6. Cases are being cut in half every week and more and more studies suggest that open schools do not have any impact on transmission, but we've known that....for months. There is even growing evidence that we may achieve a low level of herd immunity by the time we are starting Phase 3. Yet I expect the time will come to make a bold decision to fully reopen and I can already hear the excuse, "we need more time". Countless other districts around the country and around the state have found a way to put children back in school full time. It's time that we do the same.

I don't need a reply - I understand you have enough to do. I just wanted to make my voice heard as another parent who lives with the consequences of your choices every single day.

Matt Van Peursem

Dear Trustees and Superintendent,

Although I would have preferred an earlier start date than April 12 for many reason, I am content with what we were given. For the sake of our children, I ask that you stay firm to this date. I was fearful in expressing this date to my son because of concern it may be changed. If so, it would add salt to a wound they already have. This date sets hope for them. If any change is done to dates I urge them to be sooner rather than later.

I, as well as a fellow WJUSD parent and probably many others, have reached out to our child's teachers asking how we can help prepare for their return to class. As parents we are ready to do what it takes to make this start happen.

I would also like to give my support of the hybrid model for grades 7-12. I have many nieces and nephews in these grade levels that need the social interaction and in person learning. Staying home, in your room or in bed staring at a screen is not the way they should be learning. It's not good for their mental or physical health or their education and I have seen it first hand. I have a nephew who needs additional resources by and aid and his case is not extreme enough to be at school with the current group of students. Is his education not important enough? Screen time is not working for him regardless of the efforts put in place to help him. He will succeed in person as he has before all he needs if for you all to make it happen. Unfortunately he is not the only one. I urge you to not lose site of these older children. They are closer to the real world and they need in person school to help prepare them for that.

A. Cosio

Hello,

My name is Jesus and a 5th grader at Tafoya. I want to go back to school because I learn more and better in person. I don't want to do distance learning because I don't understand things the same way as if I was in class. Being on the chromebook all day hurts my eyes and gives me a headache. Being inside all day sometimes makes me sad because I think of how I used to go to school, play with friends at recess and have fun in the classroom. Both my parents have to work and can't be there to help me when I need it. I'm also home alone with my sister or sometimes by myself. I don't like being home alone. I really want to go back to school. Please do whatever you can to help us all go back to school.

Thank you,
Jesus Cosio

Hello,

I am a Mother of 2 school aged children. First grader at Zamora Elementary School and a Freshman at Woodland High School. I am urging you, the school board members to open schools immediately for FULL TIME IN PERSON instruction.

Distance learning has been a failure for my Freshman all around. She is failing all but one class and her mental health has been a real struggle. During the pandemic, being stuck at home on a computer screen with no interaction with her peers has been very rough on her academically and socially. She now sees a therapist weekly and a Psychiatrist bi-weekly as well as on medication for anxiety and depression. She has been offered tutoring outside of school hours which is also by zoom which is more screen time.

My first grader is 7 years old and says he HATES school.. He HATES looking at a screen all day doing school. He gets packets sent home every other week that are very unorganized. There is packet after packet that he is having to find and switch back and forth from. Also, a journal, 2 folders and a white board. We then have to turn in the packets to the teacher and it is unclear to me which packets he has finished and are ready to be turned in and which they are still working on. It is a constant struggle. It is hard for him to concentrate on zoom because kids are constantly talking. He has to do a program called IReady almost daily. He will be doing his IReady as directed by the teacher while other kids are talking and asking the teacher questions. He is trying to listen to his IReady with all the talking in the background. This would be frustrating for anybody and especially for a first grader.

When the pandemic first hit and schools closed I was able to use 12 weeks of covid relief time off work to be home with my students. I was able to help keep them organized, help with technical problems and sit with them if they needed academic direction. That 3 months was over very quickly. My husband and I both work full time which leaves my 2 school aged children home alone. We get off work and head home for the evening to make dinner and baths and get ready for the next day. The kids have already been cooped up for the entire day and now the evening, this equals 2 very ancy and grumpy kids. In the middle of all of the chaos we also have a 1 1/2 year old.

We are begging you as a family of 5 that you let our children return to school FULL TIME and IN PERSON! They have had a very rough year. Children need routine and they have had no routine for the past year due to the pandemic. With teachers now being vaccinated there is no reason for these children to still be locked up at home on a computer screen. We need to give them their normalcy back.

Thank you for your time in reading my letter. I ask you to please take the entire letter into consideration.

Family of Five

It is a travesty to the community keeping kids home during school time.

There are suicides and lack of association with peers.

Our precious kids are done dirty by the education system; they have lost a year of childhood.

Covid is non-existent is kids.

Doug Ross

Mr. Pritchard and WJUSD Board of Trustees,

Many students and myself included have been struggling academically this year due to the negative effects that distance learning has had on us. These effects have made it difficult to stay on track this school year. Before distance learning, I was a very involved and determined student with a 4.0 GPA, as well as being a year-round athlete. Since distance learning started, my grades have not been where I have wanted them to be and my motivation to do any school work has declined. In order to get back to the student I used to be, and I'm sure many other students feel the same way, I feel it is in our best interest if we go back to in-person school as soon as possible. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

-Clarissa Valdivia

This email was written by a student of Woodland Joint Unified School District

Dear President Whitaker, trustees and district officials,

April 12 is not an acceptable start date for our youngest students. Our town is opening up, please do the same. Open elementary schools March 8.

Respectfully,
Sarah

Hello,

I am a father of two young elementary students at Sci-Tech Academy. I am urging you, the school board members, to open schools immediately for full time in-person instruction. Distance learning has been and continues to be a failure for my kids. Constant technical problems, inconsistent instruction, emotional outbursts and WAY TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME! Every day my two children (TK and 1st grade) tell me that "WE HATE SCHOOL"!!!! My children used to love school and everything that comes with real, in-person education.

That is just not right! The students have become pawns of this Teacher Union driven strike against returning to school. Schools are open all over the country without significant COVID transmission. There is no scientific basis to continue school closure until April 12th, or to start a bogus one or two morning a week in-person schedule for the rest of the school year. So many quality families have already left the district and many more are soon to follow if full time in-person instruction does not begin now.

We must reopen schools immediately!

Respectfully,

Gilbert Tucker

I am writing to you today to continue to request and encourage the board to take every step possible towards opening all of our schools. I have 2 elementary school aged children and on a daily basis they are now telling me how they aren't enjoying school. My children are unhappy and in their own words over being on a computer all day.

I recently had a meeting with our Kindergartners teacher to discuss her lack of progress this year, as she seems to be going backwards as of late, and unfortunately in our conversation it became clear to me that there wasn't much that could be done to assist her under the current teaching conditions. This is a problem to me, our family and our children. I hope that you are finding this to be a problem too.

I understand that the pandemic has created hurdles but you are the elected officials that can do something about these hurdles. Please continue to fight for our districts children and to get them back in the classroom as soon as possible.

A Concerned Parent

Dear President Whitaker, Trustees, and District Officials,

Please, please open the schools for our kids. This closure has gone on significantly longer than necessary to the detriment of our children, especially those that are most disadvantaged. It is clearly **NOT FAIR** to the kids especially, who have no say in the matter, nor to the parents who have largely turned their lives upside accommodate the school closures.

April 12 is not an acceptable start date for our youngest students. Our town is opening up, please do the same. Open elementary schools **March 8**.

Thanks,
Jimmy Hamlin

Dear President Whitaker, trustees and district officials,

April 12 is not an acceptable start date for our youngest students. Our town is opening up, please do the same. If I can go out to dinner and catch a movie all indoors our children can and need to be on campus. Open elementary schools March 8.

Thank you,
Kristen Kirchgessner

Superintendent Pritchard, President Whitaker, Trustees, Cabinet, and Community:

I'm Debbie Decker, Past President and former School Board Trustee. I wish to commend the Board and staff for their hard work to get to this point of reopening schools to blended learning. I also wish to commend teachers and staff for their incredible dedication and hard work to support and implement a completely new way of delivering instruction to our students.

While I support reopening schools in a hybrid model, I am very concerned about how a hybrid model will be implemented in the classroom. There is no guidance in the Resolution up for consideration tonight neither is there any guidance in the CDPH document included as Exhibit A for how districts, schools or teachers are supposed to actually accomplish a hybrid model of instruction.

Does hybrid mean in-person instruction with a livestream of that instruction to kids at home? How does that actually work? Does the District have the infrastructure to support this? Will students at home be expected to self-direct to online resources? Will teachers be expected to pre-record lessons for kids at home and then prepare and deliver in-person instruction, too? Will families who opt out of hybrid learning continue with the current model of synchronous/asynchronous learning with a credentialed grade level teacher via zoom? Or will it be some sort of livestream to a classroom setting?

An attitude of "Teachers will figure it out" is not useful. All (emphasis added) of the teachers I know are putting in 60+ hours a week to prepare and deliver rigorous content to their students virtually. They all want to be back in the classroom. But the district, in consultation with their union partners and planning teams, must develop clear expectations and supports so teachers and students can be set up for success.

I appreciate your time and dedication to WJUSD.
Signed, Debbie Decker

I am a parent in WJUSD. It is not clear to me why the district is unable to open elementary schools before March 8. Can you please very clearly detail why this date is not possible at this evening's school board meeting?

Thank you,
Sarah

Dear WJUSD Trustees,

Before I start off, I want to say a big thank you for last week's meeting. Trustee Childers, thank you for putting a date on Phase 3 of re-opening our schools. After last week, we parents felt like we were finally heard. You all listened to the voice mails and you read several emails, most in favor of in person learning and you made the Decision to move forward.

I am a parent of four in the district. I have a kinder at Tafoya, a 5th grader at Tafoya, and 8th grader at Douglass, and a Sophomore at Pioneer High School. This has been a rough year for all my children. Depression, social isolation, lack of motivation, with draw, weight gain and

inability to remain focused on their studies while distant learning from home with all the distraction is just some of the issues we have faced.

Last academic year, it was said that "grades didn't matter" therefore many students stopped trying because it did not matter if they tried or not. Kids looked at it as an extended Spring Break that lasted through the Summer. The start of this year, the days were extended. Making it even harder on the kids to stay on task and remain in front of a screen for a huge portion of the day. Kids are suffering and experiencing frequent headaches and migraines all at the same time of feeling that no matter how much they try, it's not enough. The number of High Schoolers who had failing grades this past semester concerns me. How many of these high school students will not be on track to graduate on time because they simply could not adapt to distant learning? How many kids will end up as super seniors or even worse just give up and drop out because they do not see a better solution. How many kids across the state have taken their lives since the pandemic? These issues here are far more important and serious than taking the risk of catching a virus.

Many schools around us are opening in March. My recommendation and thoughts are let's get K-6 in sooner than that April 12 date. Let's get our middle school and high schoolers back in their classrooms too. You all have had a year to come up with a plan and implement the plan. I ask that rather than this 2 day a week model, let's do 5 days a week. Our kids deserve better!!!

Let's show that the kids and what is best for them is in your top priority. Not all parents are comfortable with sending their kids back just yet, and that is okay. The ones who want it and need it, let them have the option. The school reopening at less than full capacity should assist this process when it comes to how many kids are in the classroom and being able to "socially distance". Our kids are willing to wear the masks just to be back in class.

My final request this afternoon is once we enter Phase 3, please keep the momentum going. Do not delay our kids anymore from getting back to the schools that they all love and miss. Please, do not delay in planning. This mom will not give up advocating for my children. I know what is best for them and they belong in the classroom full time.

Thank you,
Melissa Comstock

Dear Trustees,

We thank you for your decision to reopen in person on April 12th. My Kindergartner is overjoyed to finally meet his class mates and learn in a real classroom. He has struggled with distance learning from the beginning, and it is no question that it's hard for a 5 yr old to focus on a computer all day, even though his teacher has been truly amazing and try's so hard. It's still not enough. A child this young should not cry every day out of frustration, a child this young should not hate school and be as desperate as he is to socialize with other kids. Data from K-12

schools that have reopened for in-person instruction in the fall, show little evidence that schools contributed meaningfully to the spread of COVID-19. The CDC and the American Academy of pediatrics have recommended kids be back in the classroom. The benefits far outweigh the risks, and this has gone on far too long. This community is begging you to stick to the science and continue with this reopening plan, and please don't let the union sway your decision.

Thank you,
Allyson Pinegar

Trustees & Superintendent Prichard,

Please open our schools to full, in person learning this year and ensure it continues to remain open for full time, in person learning next year.

Today my child's classes were canceled due to issues associated with distance learning. This would not have occurred if they were at school, in person.

Thank you for taking the next step at our last School Board meeting to set a date to open schools. Now we must take the next step to ensure all of our children have access to full time, in person learning immediately, with a commitment to having our schools open next year for full time in person learning too.

According to IHSS, Yolo County is ranked #3 in the state of California for poverty. Keep that in mind as you read a publication by the American Academy of Pediatrics which states that "populations with a higher baseline risk, such as historically under-resourced communities, populations facing inequities, and children and youth with special health care needs, may be especially vulnerable" to long term effects associated with distance learning. [SOURCE](#)

The prestigious National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, which advises the nation on issues related to science, has repeatedly stated that "Online learning is ineffective for most elementary-school children and special-needs children." Additionally, Caitlin Rivers, an epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins and a member of NASEM has stated that it must "be a priority for districts to reopen for in-person learning, especially for younger ages."

Please offer an online academy that students can attend if they are not comfortable with in person learning. And let the other children go back to school. Do this for your teachers; do this for our children; do this for the overall health of our community; and do this to stop the socioeconomic divide that is growing because the children that "have" can go to local private schools and the children who "don't have" are stuck with a less-than means of learning.

We can do this. Allow us to help.

Seth & Katie Curran

Parent of Kindergartener at Zamora

Concurrent teaching. What is that going to look like in kindergarten?

14 kids in class, 14 online?

How am I supposed to help both at the same time? Who will benefit more? Who will lose out?

How is this an effective method for teaching? Especially to our youngest and most dependent of students.

Do I walk away from my online kids to help a student physically in my classroom? What is that going to look like? Will one group feel neglected? Lost? Forgotten? I'm only one person. I can't possibly be 2 places at once.

What happens to my online kids when I have to pick up my in-person students in the morning? What about recess and lunch and pickup in the afternoon? Should I get used to carrying my laptop around campus all day?

6 weeks until a possible start date? Does anyone fully understand all the little details that need to be worked out? A schedule change for the 3rd or 4th time this year!

I want the kids back. I really do! But I don't think I can mentally, physically or emotionally handle concurrent teaching. To be honest, I'm not sure a 6 year old could either.

Sara Birtcil
Kindergarten
Prairie Elementary

Good evening to everyone,

My name is Mari Sanchez and I teach TK at Maxwell Elementary.

I'm writing tonight to express my concerns about concurrent teaching.

I'll make this message short and sweet.

There is NO way it will work in TK. TK students are one of our youngest populations in our district and require lots of undivided attention. Juggling two sets of students in-person and online would be nearly impossible for the teacher and not fair for the students and their safety.

I highly urge the Board to direct the District to not select this type of teaching model for MOU 3.

Thank you.
Mari Sanchez

Dear WJUSD Board and Superintendent Prichard,

While many of us would like to see school open sooner, we understand the logistical challenges facing the district which. Make opening sooner unrealistic. With that in mind, we support the proposed opening date of April 12th. It is a reasonable and realistic compromise.

As the parent group advocating for open schools we encourage the board to take any action necessary to honor the commitment made by last week's vote to open schools on April 12th. If it can be done sooner, we fully support an earlier return date! Any delays are unacceptable, given that our children will have been out of school for over a year already, and the district has had plenty of time to put a plan together to make this happen, once given the ok.

The parents of the district also encourage the board to direct staff to begin the planning necessary to move to phase 4 in-person learning with restrictions. If current trend continue, we will be at a decision point for phase 4 sooner rather than later. With case numbers and further research supporting in-person education, any implementation delays for phase 4 due to short sightedness will be easily avoided by taking action now. We expect the board to approve plans for progressive re-opening as soon as possible for ALL GRADES, given the trends we are seeing.

We will continue to advocate for the full reopening of schools as public health guidance allows. It is undoubtedly what is best for our children

Our kids need to be back in the classroom!!

Thank you for your consideration.

Melissa Lanier
Parent of WHS student

Good Evening Superintendent Pritchard, Board President Whitaker and Trustees,

First, I wanted to start by thanking everything that went into distance learning for my kindergartner and 3rd grader. The teachers are the heroes at the front who need to be celebrated first. Our kids' teachers have gone above and beyond in every aspect and it has been very successful for their academic learning. Not only do they make it fun, interactive and academically challenging, they respond to parents almost immediately even outside their contracted hours. They have done a great job making the parents educational partners. We know from a recent survey at Spring Lake Elementary that a large majority of students and parents feel the same. Between 60-80% of students and parents had positive ratings for learning, support and the overall experience, so we know it wasn't just our kids that were successful. All of this wouldn't be possible without the amazing organization by the site's front office for events like the material pick up days and district IT that solved problems immediately or organized new equipment for our students. So, I just wanted to celebrate the teachers and the staff publicly. Thank You. You are greatly appreciated.

As we shift to the potential hybrid in April, I want to ask that there is at least some time devoted to talking about the continuity of learning for the students who, either out of necessity or preference, will continue distance learning for the remainder of the school year. If just 20% stay with distance learning, that will still equate to nearly 2,000 students. We know the conversation tonight is very focused on the students who will enter into the hybrid model, but please spend a portion of your time thinking about minimizing the disruption for the students who stay in distance learning. They will be the ones to likely lose their teachers and their classmates in the shuffle. As a matter of perspective, the hybrid model which starts after spring break will result in a total of 14 in person days for individual students for the final seven weeks since students only go twice a week. The main reason I want this discussed at the board meeting is to provide parents as much information as possible when they choose the model best suited for their kids. Parents need to know if their kids will lose their teacher in elementary school if they stay in distance learning. Will they need to drive to different schools for materials and contact a new front office if their new teacher works at a different school site?

Thank You for your time,
Eric and Anja Garber

I am opposed to returning to school at this time in the proposed concurrent model.
Sincerely,
Teri Janousek

Dear President Whitaker, trustees and district officials,

April 12 is not an acceptable start date for our youngest students. Our town is opening up, please do the same. Open elementary schools March 8.

As you know, Dr. Aimee Sisson, our County Public Health officer, [provided evidence and encouraged](#) you to open elementary schools on January 28.

Yolo County has entered the red tier and is opening restaurants, gyms and movie theaters. We're sending a message to our youngest learners - the future of our community - and that message is: you're our last priority.

Please open elementary schools March 8,

Karen Broadus

Dear WJUSD Board,

My name is Dr. Crystal Ripplinger and my son is a first grader at Sci-Tech Elementary. Although we are somewhat encouraged by the proposed April 12 reopening date, this still puts WJUSD students woefully behind many neighboring districts that will be reopening throughout March.

This is especially frustrating considering that WJUSD has had nearly a full year to plan and negotiate for a safe and effective re-opening, yet now we have further delays for planning and preparation purposes. Regardless, I urge you to safely reopen our schools as soon as possible, and IMMEDIATELY start planning for Phase 4 to avoid any further delays in the phased reopening process.

Reopening schools in Phase 3 for approximately 9 weeks has led many teachers and parents to wonder if it is worth it – but I assure you it is. Our children are worth it. When students return to the classroom on April 12, they will have been out of school for more than one year. These 9 weeks are essential for reintroducing some semblance of normalcy to their incredibly disrupted lives before the summer break.

Moreover, these 9 weeks are essential to prove to our students, parents, and community that WJUSD is willing to do the hard work of reopening so that in the fall, we are ready for full in-person instruction. Indeed, neighboring districts, including Davis Joint Unified School District, have made public statements about their commitment to full in-person instruction in the fall. WJUSD needs to follow suit and be ready for fall, and these 9 weeks will help us get there. Failure to follow through or further delay of the April 12 Phase 3 reopening will be devastating for many students and families. Please don't let us down.

Respectfully,
Dr. Crystal Ripplinger

I am a teacher in Woodland Prairie Elementary. My colleagues and I have discussed the fact that concurrent instruction is an unattainable teaching model because it would require the teacher to conduct virtual and in-person instruction at once. It would either alienate one group in the virtual realm or cause the teacher to neglect the students that are with them in-person. We understand that some parents want their students back in classrooms, but there are also parents that do not want their students back in schools. In order to resolve this issue, we need to draw up a plan that would appease both interests. Concurrent instruction, however, is not a way to do it, because it once again neglects the teachers, asking them to do something ludicrous and impossible. How are we supposed to be in two places at once?

Hi,
I'm a Yolo county resident and I'm writing to express my strong opposition to having teachers start doing concurrent teaching. I have multiple loved ones who are great educators, and I'm concerned that this will only make their jobs harder. this year has already been tough, and it's hard enough to teach remotely, so why do you think adding a second job of teaching in person will help? there is no way to split attention and make sure both groups of students are having all of their needs met, and teachers are already being put in a difficult situation. I think it will be better for the kids to be back in school when it is safe for everyone to do so, but this is not the solution. this will only lead to an increased workload, and less time to make sure individual children are having their needs met. please don't do this.

best,
Laura Holstege

Dear President Whitaker, trustees and district officials,

Per Dr. Sisson's presentation, please open elementary schools March 8 for full-time and in person instruction. No hybrid model.

Thank you,
Beja Springer
Parent at Dingle

Hello , Good Evening ,

As a kindergarten teacher I am highly concerned about being able to deliver quality instruction to my five year old students online and in-person while still online. The idea is difficult to even wrap my brain around.

As a teacher I am concerned about my colleagues being overwhelmed and not being able to deliver the kind of instruction they know they can.

As a parent - this concerns me with having just as much screen time as they have now ! And, will the kids really be learning while the teachers are split between 2 groups of students?

I know there are more qualified people than me to come up with a better plan for our students and teachers.

Our COVID numbers are trending down , correct ?

Why aren't we planning for a full in-person return by April 12th and if that is not an option for staff and/or students why is there not a virtual option available?

I know the logistics are tough. Its like breaking down a combo or closing a class after the year has started on a higher stage - I get that , however that is what is best .

I teach letters and sounds - how do I do that to in-person online learners WITH a mask on or online learners with a mask on ?

When I ask my high school senior and sophomore which option they liked best ... their response , "none- go back in-person everyday ".

We need to do better for the community we serve. It's essential.

Thank you ,

Kelly Timothy

Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,

My name is Annie Preciado and I am a parent from Zamora Elementary. Last week the School Board approved to move forward with an April 12th re-opening date. I do thank you for taking the next step with a re-opening date, however I would like to see this date much earlier and I hope this date doesn't get pushed back either.

When our children go back on April 12th, it will be a hybrid model. This is not enough for our kids and I can't imagine the complexities it will bring for our teachers. By April 12th, all educators would have had the opportunity to be vaccinated if they so choose. Our county also moved to the red tier this week and covid infection numbers continue to be on the decrease.

We need our kids (TK-12) to be back in person full time. Also, please consider to offer an online academy that students can attend if they are not comfortable with in person learning. Let the other children go back to school.

Many surrounding schools are setting return dates in March. I know we can do this. Please make this a top priority to get all students back to full in person learning this year and ensure it continues to remain open for full time, in person next year too.

With respect,

Annie Preciado
Parent of 3rd grader, Zamora Elementary

I am making a public comment that is not in favor of concurrent instruction for elementary.

Good evening Board of Trustees, Superintendent Pritchard and executive cabinet members

My name is [Irma Lopez](#), 5th grade Dual Immersion teacher at Beamer Elementary, and mother to a 6th grade student enrolled in Beamer Elementary.

First, I would like to thank you for your hard work and dedication to our community. I know that the reopening process has not been easy and that you have had to make hard decisions. I also know that you have done what you feel is best for our students and our community and I applaud you for that. However, I am concerned about one decision that you will be considering soon, concurrent instruction. I am against concurrent instruction at the elementary level and am requesting that you reconsider some of these ramifications before making this difficult decision.

Concurrent instruction is not ideal nor appropriate for elementary students. First, even though students will be in the classroom for live instruction, they will still have to be in front of a screen, rather than focus on project base, hands on activities. Teachers will have to continue to deliver instruction and request work via their Chromebook in order to have parity between both groups because both groups will not have access to hand-on materials.

Additionally, students will not receive the attention/support that they need if teachers are to monitor two sets of students in different learning environments. For example, elementary teachers usually teach while circulating the classroom to check for understanding, monitor student work, and answer questions. However, with concurrent instruction, this will not be possible since they will have to be focusing on students on screen, students in front of them, in person questions, questions in the chat, kids logging in and out, and other technical difficulties that arise throughout the day. Another concern is that the group of students that is on virtually will not be able to see, and possibly not hear, the teacher if he/she is circulating the classroom. Consequently, it will be hard for virtual students to participate in class discussions, make their voices heard or have their questions answered in a timely manner, creating an inequitable environment.

To conclude, please consider that concurrent instruction is not appropriate nor ideal for elementary students. Elementary teachers do not teach sitting down nor standing in one place in front of a class. Both groups of students have very different needs that cannot and will not be met through concurrent instruction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Good evening to everyone,

My name is Jackie Taylor and I teach 4th grade at Maxwell Elementary. I'm writing tonight to express my concerns about concurrent teaching. The current proposal has teachers splitting their attention between those students attending in person, and those attending online via Zoom. It will be impossible to effectively monitor both groups at the same time. It is also unfair to both groups of students since they would receive less focused attention from the teacher than if the students were attending either entirely in person (in cohorts A/B) or entirely online.

I highly urge the Board to direct the District to not select this type of teaching model for MOU 3.

Thank you,
Jackie

My name is Monica Marcheschi and I have 2 children attending WJUSD. One child is at Plainfield and the other is at Pioneer. I'm emailing the district to urge you to open our schools. I am so grateful that you have at least set a date to open. I grew up in Utah and have 2 sisters that are teachers there. They both have been teaching in person safely since August. It's been hard to see my nieces and nephews back in school and not my kids. I have felt very patient until February 1st hit and then I decided it's been long enough. I have contemplated moving to Utah.

My 9th grader lives in her bedroom all day. She is suffering. I am confident it is safe enough to go back to in person learning. She is losing out on so much. They are getting too much screen time.

Many of the younger kids can't express the loneliness and lack of focus that they are experiencing. I volunteer with the 2nd graders and teach them music/singing time. I see the frustration in their eyes every week. They aren't even singing. I can't reach them through the computer. I know the hard work the teachers are doing, I see it everyday, but they can't reach these little kids through a computer screen.

Please open our schools now. Listen to the kids and the scientists. We have watched our kids suffer long enough.

Thank you

Good evening to all,

We, Gloria Luna and Stella Medina, are the Kindergarten Team at Maxwell Elementary. We are writing to express our concerns about concurrent teaching. Kindergarten students require a lot of attention and guidance. Teaching simultaneously two groups of kindergartens in person and online would not be beneficial for either group. This would NOT work. Kindergarten students need our undivided attention at all times in order for them to be successful!

I urge the Board to reconsider this type of teaching if we are truly wanting what is best for our students.

Thank you,

Gloria Luna
Stella Medina

Dear Trustees, Cabinet, and Community,

I am writing to oppose concurrent instruction.

Anyone who has been in a classroom knows that teachers can multi-task. We can send a warning with a glance, while giving comfort with a hand gesture, and keep our lesson moving forward at the same time. We maintain multiple streams of communication while presenting multiple forms of representation to keep students engaged. This is not easy in-person or online, but we do it because it is necessary for our students' success.

Everyone also knows that teachers have eyes in the back of our heads, and we do. We know that our students' safety requires our constant vigilance and we feel the weight of responsibility to carefully monitor and protect the many young people in our care. I do not need to tell you

how much more this will be the case as we open to more students who will be navigating the school setting with social distancing and other safety measures for the first time.

Please give teachers and students a fighting chance to make this work by allowing us to multi-task in one setting at a time.

Sincerely,
Braden Paule
First Grade Teacher
Rhoda Maxwell Elementary School

WJUSD Board of Trustees,

I am writing with regards to agenda item N.2.

It is disgusting that this is even an item on your agenda today. Schools should not be reopening until there is sufficient herd immunity against COVID-19. It seems that the Board has somehow forgotten there is an ongoing pandemic. It is an absolute waste of funding, harmful to the public health, and an incredible burden on the teachers. A hybrid model will absolutely overload the already underpaid and overworked teachers. Please vote NO on Resolution 54-21.

Thank you.

Good evening board members. I'm saddened to see a proposal of concurrent instruction for our return back to in person instruction. Our students have had a challenging time virtually this year. Please do not let them have their teachers attention be divided between a screen and students in a classroom. Students on line will see my masked face, my online students need to see my face. My students deserve my full attention while we are in person or on line. The district is asking me to do two jobs at the same time, it is not fair to my students and myself. I already work 10-14 hours a day, six days a week. I am exhausted and the eye, neck and shoulder strain is painful.

I am also concerned about the HVAC system at Maxwell. We have spent decades with a system that is so old you can't get parts. Air blows over students and teachers across the room. We cannot open windows we only have one door which leads to the outside. It is unsafe to keep the door open. I would appreciate if the board members would go to Maxwell and Whitehead and take a look at the ventilation vents that are in the classrooms please notice the grayish black material that is on the outside of the vents, this is what we breath in. When M&O says that they make the Merc filters fit the old systems that causes me great concern. Our students and teachers deserve a well ventilated classroom. The district has had time to fix the ventilation concerns this has been an ongoing issue. Yes it will take money to fix it, our students and teachers are worth the expense.

Please make sure the district does not create an outbreak because of ventilation issues. Please make sure the district does not go ahead with their plan for teachers to teach concurrently.

Our students deserve their teachers full attention when we are in person. Thank you for listening.

Jamie Wilson

First grade teacher in Maxwell Elementary

From Alice Gillette and Tracy Yust, 2nd grade team at Spring Lake Elementary.

The fact that this board is considering concurrent teaching shows your lack of understanding and knowledge of how quality instruction is delivered.

With concurrent teaching you are asking teachers to do the job of two people at the same time causing us to divide our attention between two classrooms and being less effective for both.

How do we monitor two classes at the same time? What technology do you propose to put in place? Or are we expected to walk around with the laptop all day?

Is your expectation that students in-class will still be participating in virtual instruction? How do you propose teachers do in-class activities and include the students who are at home equitably? How will they have the same experience?

Everyone speaks to the social-emotional well being of our students who have been learning virtually for so long, how do you propose we keep the students who are home from feeling left out and neglected?

If everything is virtual still, how are we helping the social-emotional well being of the students on site?

How do you propose we keep the students at school engaged if lessons continue to be presented as they have been for the last year?

Please reconsider your decision to reopen with concurrent instruction our students deserve better than this. One possibility is to reopen with an am/pm schedule.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

Alice Gillette & Tracy Yust

2nd Grade

Spring Lake Elementary

Dear Board, District and Community Members,

I am writing in regards to the development of a safe school return by April 12th. As a teacher and parent in this district, I am just as eager and hopeful for our students to be back at school. I am aware of all the planning and I am aware of the considerations that have to be put in place before this can happen. These decisions should not solely fall on one person or entities

shoulders but should be a collaborative effort. Here are some things that I hope you will consider.

1. Transparency: Parents need to be made aware that school will not be like it was preCovid. If we are to teach small groups or cohorts, parents need to be made aware that they will have to figure out child care when their children are not at school. Also, there needs to be more transparency with information that the district puts out. We can't just use shock value to disseminate because it is counter productive. There are better ways to speak to media and the public than throwing a particular group "under the bus."

2. Concurrent Models of instruction: Concurrent models where the teacher has students in Distance Learning or at home and students in the Classroom, both learning on computers is not sustainable or good teaching practice. I can't imagine how difficult it would be for one teacher to maintain order in a classroom of 4-6 year olds while teaching online.

3. Many schools do not have proper ventilation. Many classroom share the same ventilation system and thus the same air. This is particularly concerning for me as my facility and my daughter's school are such.

Thank you for your time.

amor~y~paz,
Teresa A. Ramirez

Dear President Whitaker, Trustees and District Officials,

April 12 is not an acceptable start date for our youngest students. Our town is opening up, please do the same. Open elementary schools March 8.

Thank you,
Karen Shepard

For Public Comment, February 25, 2021

Dear WJUSD Board, Superintendent, Staff, Community members, Parents and Students:

It is 8:05 pm.

My husband, a teacher with more than 25 years of experience, has just gone to bed. He is utterly exhausted.

This is earliest he has ever gone to bed in our 15 years of marriage, except when ill.

He was at work at 7:15 AM and left at 6 PM.

These are the regular hours he has kept every day, 5 days/week, since the pandemic started in March.

He works several hours each day on the weekends as well.

When WJUSD students are scheduled to return to campuses in mid-April, he will be monitoring 50% of his students in his classroom, and 50% of them online.

AT THE SAME TIME.

No extra help.

(I volunteered, he says no visitors are allowed on-site.)

I am struggling to understand how, in practical terms, this will work.

Dear WJUSD: "Teachers will just have to figure it out on their own" is not a strategy.

I was very surprised that there was not even an acknowledgment in any of the presentations of the impact the various proposals would have on teachers. Children should always come first, but are our teachers and staff members not even worth a mention?

I do not want to have helped save our teaching staff from CoVid-19 only to have them die of exhaustion.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen Bayne, MS, PPS

Former WJUSD Board Member

My name is Tahnee Sweeney, I am a teacher at Tafoya. Ensuring basic mitigations and ventilation standards are pressing components to provide a safe reopening, like small stable cohorts and sanitation - which will be negatively impacted by adopting mandated concurrent instruction, where teachers are mandated to teach online and in person at the same time even if that is not what will meet their students needs most appropriately. Workplace choice for virtual teaching agreed to in earlier phases protects not only all staff, but more facilitates classrooms being deep cleaned between cohorts - which requires a day of virtual instruction between different in person cohorts using a room. Rates of return for in person instruction nationally and statewide are following the risk groups face with COVID, showing just over 60% of white students are returning and about half of students of color (much less so among African Americans). We will have a large number of families in Woodland who will remain virtual. We have over 100 teachers who have serious health concerns that require accommodations, as well as many who have family members including children with underlying conditions who they are concerned about bringing the virus home to, and those well who are facing new child care needs, for example if they live in Davis where, if students return to in person this year, they will do so only in the afternoon. Teachers who have created relationships with students and families are best positioned to meet their students needs with the flexibility it will require. Further, Would you put yourself or your child in a room with a cohort of students with their masks off eating lunch? What about in a room with no windows or doors that open to the outside for ventilation as outlined in every set of government guidelines? This describes most of the classrooms at Woodland High. For safety, the grab and go lunch schedule that was agreed upon with WEA for Phase two in the spirit of continuing it to Phase 3 needs to continue. Recently, through what I believe is an unending pessimistic frame we will overcome together, WJUSD shared that it would take months to meet the expectations of the law laid out in Assembly Bill 841 which was signed into law last October 1, 2020. Though it is surprising that work pursuing meeting standards in the law may not have commenced on Oct. 2, let's ask

ourselves what steps can we take tomorrow to meet the parameters of this law? Can Woodland High classrooms be prioritized? Can a timeline be agreed to for rooms to be assessed for meeting AB 841 parameters? Also, Can the \$50 carbon dioxide monitors available from Walmart be delivered to the classrooms? In addition, how do we make sure we have called all the distributors of N95 masks listed on the CDC to place orders that are available in large quantities? Crisis distance learning and crisis in person learning will be hard, but giving up trying to establish a safe plan and scapegoating teachers for the challenges is not a viable choice. Scapegoating teachers for the pandemic is seriously dangerous in our current political climate that includes the recent insurgency at the nation's capital, and spiking anti-asian hate crimes resulting from similar scapegoating of a particular group for the pandemic. Again, it would be a shame if WJUSD loses scores of teachers due to safety concerns, and students in Woodland bear the effects of a systematic choice to push these teachers out of their beloved career.

I hope this is received and read, though I missed the deadline by 10 minutes. I was in parent/student conferences.

Concurrent instruction at this point is not workable. We still have teachers waiting to get the vaccines.

Our teachers will have many challenges trying to do two jobs at once --It is challenging enough to teach virtually...but if we are now teaching in-person AND digitally, the virtual students will suffer.

The in person demands of students will by necessity demand our time and attention as classroom management must once again change.

WE are all anxious to get back to school, but please don't add any extra stresses upon teachers who are and have already gone above and beyond for our students by adapting to this new learning environment with lightning speed despite minimal training.

Respectfully,
Alicia Cummings
Lee Middle School Teacher

We vote for option 1! Both my high school kiddos NEED to go back to in class learning ASAP!

THANKS!
Katie Cleaver

Dear President Whitaker, trustees and district officials,

April 12 is not an acceptable start date for our youngest students. Our town is opening up, please do the same. Open elementary schools March 8.

I support this request In behalf of parents in Woodland whom I know and who are well educated and prepared to safely let their children begin school sooner than April 12 . I support their endeavors & especially since these parents are very conscientious and feel their children are ready. Mary Weiss
