



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

March 11, 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/wjuds> (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:

Trustee Rogelio Villagrana pulled for separate action from the agenda Purchase Order #12 for The Regents of the U.C. and Trustee Bautista Zavala pulled for separate action from the agenda Purchase Order #8 for Southwest School & Office Supply from Consent Agenda item L.1.a. Approve Purchases of Items/Services in Excess of \$15,000: List 14-21.

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 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

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

Minutes:

No public comments were submitted for Closed Session agenda items.

D. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

D.1. 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 recessed at 5:56 p.m.

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

Minutes:

The Board President reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

E.1. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

Trustee Rogelio Villagrana 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 President announced that no action was taken in Closed Session.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR SECTION G. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Minutes:

There were no public comments for section G. Community Engagement.

G. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

G.1. Joint Session: Woodland Joint Unified School District and the Woodland City Council Regarding Reopening of Schools

Minutes:

Trustees engaged in a joint session with Mayor Tom Stallard, Mayor Pro Tempore Mayra Vega, Council Member Rich Lansburgh, Council Member Tania Garcia-Cadena, Council Member Victoria Fernandez of the Woodland City Council. Woodland City Manager Ken Hiatt participated in the session and both parties agreed to work collaboratively. Superintendent Tom Pritchard shared a PowerPoint presentation.

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

Minutes:

Please see the attached public comments.

I. REPORTS

I.1. Report from Student Board Members

Minutes:

Woodland High School Student Board Member Dora Gomez shared information about Woodland HS events.

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

I.2. Superintendent's Report

I.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.

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

Minutes:

CSEA President Todd Freer shared information regarding CSEA activities.

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

Minutes:

WEA President Jennifer Shilen shared information regarding WEA activities.

I.5. Report from Board Members

Minutes:

Trustees Richardson Fowler, Rodriguez, Villagrana, Garcia, Bautista Zavala, and Whitaker shared information regarding activities that they have participated in since the last Regular Board Meeting.

I.6. Information: Board Committee Updates

Minutes:

Trustees Villagrana, Bautista Zavala, and Rodriguez provided an update on a recent 3x2x2 meeting.

The Board recessed the meeting at 7:44 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

J. TEACHING AND LEARNING

J.1. Information/Action: Update on WJUSD's Reopening Plan and COVID-19 Impacts

Minutes:

Please see the attached public comments.

The Information/Action item "Update on WJUSD's Reopening Plan and COVID-19 Impacts" was presented in a PowerPoint presentation by Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Elodia Ortega-Lampkin and Director of College and Career Readiness Jacob Holt.

J.2. Action: Secondary School Plans for Student Achievement for the 2020-2021 Academic Year

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve the Secondary School Plans for Student Achievement for the 2020-2021 Academic Year. 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

J.3. Information: Report on 2020-2021 First Semester Student Outcome Trends

Minutes:

Please see the attached public comments.

The Information item "Report on 2020-2021 First Semester Student Outcome Trends" was presented in a PowerPoint presentation by Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Elodia Ortega-Lampkin, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christina Lambie, Director of Equity and Access Maria Orozco, and Director of College and Career Readiness Jacob Holt.

K. GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

K.1. Action: Requested Change in Process for Handling Public Comments During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Minutes:

This item was tabled from the agenda.

L. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes:

Trustee Rogelio Villagrana previously pulled the following item from the Consent Agenda for separate action: Purchase Order #12 for The Regents of the U.C. and Trustee Bautista Zavala pulled for separate action Purchase Order #8 for Southwest School & Office Supply from item L.1.a. *Approve Purchases of Items/Services in Excess of \$15,000: List 14-21*. Trustee Childers pulled for separate action item L.4.a. *Approve Board Meeting Minutes*.

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. Passed with a motion by Jake Whitaker 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

L.1. Business Services

L.1.a. Approve Purchases of Items/Services in Excess of \$15,000: List 14-21

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Purchase Order #8 for Southwest School & Office Supply with caveat that processing for a warranty completed. Passed with a motion by Deborah Bautista Zavala 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

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Purchase Order #12 for The Regents of the U.C. Passed with a motion by Jake Whitaker and a second by Deborah Bautista Zavala.

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

L.2. Educational Services

L.2.a. Approve Petition for Early Graduation as Follows: a. Student #EG 21-8

L.2.b. Information: School Resource Officer (SRO) Quarterly Report (Written Report)

L.2.c. Approve Contract for Network Equipment-Category 2 E-Rate Funding

L.2.d. Approve Award of Contract for Wide Area Network (WAN)-Category 1 E-Rate Funding

L.3. Human Resources

L.3.a. Approve Certificated Personnel Report, 21-13

L.3.b. Approve Classified Personnel Report, 21-13

L.3.c. Approve Certificated Substitute Pay Schedule with Special Dedicated and Long-Term Substitute Rate for 2020-2021 (effective 4/12/2021-6/11/2021)

L.4. Superintendent's Office

L.4.a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes:

L.4.a.I. February 18, 2021 - Special Board Meeting

L.4.a.II. February 25, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve L.4.a.I. February 18, 2021 - Special Board Meeting and L.4.a.II. February 25, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting. Passed with a motion by Jake Whitaker and a second by Deborah Bautista Zavala.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala

Yes Morgan Childers

Yes Bibiana Garcia

Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler

Yes Noel Rodriguez

Abstain Rogelio Villagrana

Yes Jake Whitaker

L.4.a.III. March 4, 2021 – Special Board Meeting

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve L.4.a.III. March 4, 2021 - Special Board Meeting. Passed with a motion by Jake Whitaker and a second by Morgan Childers.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala

Abstain Morgan Childers

Yes Bibiana Garcia

Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler

Yes Noel Rodriguez

Abstain Rogelio Villagrana

Yes Jake Whitaker

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

Minutes:

There were no requests for future agenda items.

N. INFORMATION: CLOSING COMMENTS

O. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR BOARD MEETING: March 25, 2021 - Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. for Open Session.

P. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President adjourned the meeting at 10:55 p.m.

BOARD CLERK

BOARD PRESIDENT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 11, 2021
Public Comments

Dear Trustee Garcia and Ms. Villasenor,

At the February 25 WJUSD School Board meeting Trustee Garcia requested funds be allocated towards extra counselors for schools. Superintendent Pritchard informed Trustee Garcia that if the Board of Trustees approves of this expenditure at the March 25 board meeting the district will not be capable of hiring enough counselors by April 12.

On behalf of all students at Dingle Elementary School, please hire a full-time counselor for the 2020 - 2021 and 2021 - 2022 school years at a minimum.

This year, Dingle Elementary has had a counselor available to students two days per week. This is unacceptable.

My student at Dingle Elementary has needed this resource many times in the last two years. It has been difficult not having a full-time counselor available this past year.

Do not let perfect get in the way of good. Regardless of whether or not the counselors can be hired before April 12, we strongly urge you to hire full-time counselors for all schools in the district. Whether they start April 30 or August 30, this needs to be a key use of state and federal funding.

Respectfully,
Crystal Rea

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees, district executives and staff:

At the beginning of women's history month let us all remember New York University sociologist Barbara Heyns. Dr. Heyns was the first researcher to study the summer achievement gap in the 1970s. She discovered that kids from lower-income and African American families stayed more or less even with their upper-income, white, suburban classmates *so long as* school was in session, but fell behind by the equivalent of a month or more every summer.

Call it learning loss. Call it summer achievement gap. Regardless of what you call it, 50 years is far too long to address it and this gap is impacting our district.

We are asking WJUSD to close the summer achievement gap. Not for a select few students, not for just one school, but for all WJUSD students.

Typically, schools that recognize the dangers of summer and holidays have figured out how to modify the calendar to start earlier, and end later. Even when they are [required](#) to offer the same number of instructional days each year by the state, they do so with more, and shorter, days away from school.

We are asking WJUSD to close the summer achievement gap by shortening the summer break.

We recognize that the Board of Trustees approved the school calendars through academic year 2023 - 2024. If those calendars cannot be modified, please plan **now** to allocate federal and state COVID relief funds to provide full-day summer school academic programming to all students who: a. qualify for free/reduced lunch, b. are in the migrant program, c. speak English as a second language, and d. are performing below grade level. This is our request for this summer, beginning June 2021.

Beginning with the academic year 2024 - 2025, we ask you to shorten summer break.
With appreciation for your work,
Valentina Zendejas

Dear Trustee Garcia and Ms. Villasenor,

At the February 25 WJUSD School Board meeting Trustee Garcia requested funds be allocated towards extra counselors for schools. Superintendent Pritchard informed Trustee Garcia that if the Board of Trustees approves of this expenditure at the March 25 board meeting the district will not be capable of hiring enough counselors by April 12.

On behalf of all students at Dingle Elementary School, please hire a full-time counselor for the 2020 - 2021 and 2021 - 2022 school years at a minimum.

This year, Dingle Elementary has had a counselor available to students two days per week. This is unacceptable.

Do not let perfect get in the way of good. Regardless of whether or not the counselors can be hired before April 12, we strongly urge you to hire full-time counselors for all schools in the district. Whether they start April 30 or August 30, this needs to be a key use of state and federal funding.

Respectfully,
Valentina Zendejas

Dear Trustee Garcia and Ms. Villasenor,

At the February 25 WJUSD School Board meeting Trustee Garcia requested funds be allocated towards extra counselors for schools. Superintendent Pritchard informed Trustee Garcia that if the Board of Trustees approves of this expenditure at the March 25 board meeting the district will not be capable of hiring enough counselors by April 12.

On behalf of all students at Dingle Elementary School, please hire a full-time counselor for the 2020 - 2021 and 2021 - 2022 school years at a minimum.

This year, Dingle Elementary has had a counselor available to students two days per week. Two days is unacceptable.

Do not let perfect get in the way of good. Regardless of whether or not the counselors can be hired before April 12, I strongly urge you to hire full-time counselors for all schools in the district. Whether they start April 30 or August 30, this needs to be a key use of state and federal funding.

Respectfully,
Sarah

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees, district executives and staff:

Woodland students' are experiencing learning loss and we must make up for lost time.

I am asking WJUSD to close the summer achievement gap. Not for a select few, not for just one school, but for all WJUSD students.

Assuming school calendars through academic year 2023 - 2024 cannot be modified, please plan **now** to allocate federal and state COVID relief funds to provide full-day summer school academic programming to all students who:

a. qualify for free/reduced lunch,

- b. are in the migrant program,
 - c. speak English as a second language, and
 - d. are performing below grade level.
- This is my request for this summer, beginning June 2021.

Respectfully,
Sarah

Dear Board of Trustees, Trustee Garcia and Superintendent Pritchard

At the February 25 WJUSD School Board meeting Trustee Garcia requested funds be allocated towards extra counselors for schools. Superintendent Pritchard informed Trustee Garcia that if the Board of Trustees approves of this expenditure at the March 25 board meeting the district will not be capable of hiring enough counselors by April 12.

On behalf of all students at Dingle Elementary School, please hire a full-time counselor for the 2020 - 2021 and 2021 - 2022 school years.

This year, Dingle Elementary has had a counselor available to students two days per week. There is sufficient data to support the need for more counselors or full time counselors especially as students return to school. Not only have they suffered from not being in the classroom many have lost friends and family to Covid. Even if counselors cannot be hired before April 12, we strongly urge you to strongly pursue hiring full-time counselors as soon as possible for all schools in the district. Whether they start April 30 or August 30, this needs to be a key use of state and federal funding.

Respectfully
Vicki Keith

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees, Superintendent Pritchard

Woodland students' are experiencing learning loss and we must do what we can to lessen the achievement gap .Prior to Covid many of our schools were already far below state averages. I therefore support asking that **WJUSD help to close the summer achievement gap**. Not for a select few, not for just one school, but for all WJUSD students.

I understand that there may be obstacles but making this the goal is not aiming too high. Yes there are obstacles but with school being on distance learning for more than a year I would think that there was enough time to perform the typical maintenance eliminating that obstacle.. I am sure that here are other obstacles. Lets' see if we can overcome them for the benefit of our students and schools.

Please consider offering summer school to all students that want it, with priority given to those that need it most.

Respectfully,
Vicki Keith

Dear Trustee Garcia and Ms. Villasenor,

At the February 25 WJUSD School Board meeting Trustee Garcia requested funds be allocated towards extra counselors for schools. Superintendent Pritchard informed Trustee Garcia that if the Board of Trustees approves of this expenditure at the March 25 board meeting the district will not be capable of hiring enough counselors by April 12.

On behalf of all students at Dingle Elementary School, please hire a full-time counselor for the 2020 - 2021 and 2021 - 2022 school years at a minimum.

This year, Dingle Elementary has had a counselor available to students two days per week. This is unacceptable.

Do not let perfect get in the way of good. Regardless of whether or not the counselors can be hired before April 12, we strongly urge you to hire full-time counselors for all schools in the district. Whether they start April 30 or August 30, this needs to be a key use of state and federal funding.

Respectfully,
Karen Broadus

Dear Trustee Garcia and Ms. Villasenor,

I'm a parent of a fourth grader and kindergartener at Dingle Elementary school. Two years ago, my then second grader was dealing with a number of interpersonal challenges with classmates at school that led to behavior changes and a major case of anxiety every Sunday night before returning to the school week. Principal Ruffalo suggested I sign her up to meet with the school counselor who ended up meeting with her once a week for the remainder of the year.

My husband and I felt we had a teammate in helping her navigate these troubles and we all saw a lot of maturity and growth during this period of time.

I share this personal experience with you because this happened in a normal school year. I think you can agree that nothing is normal about this past year and our WJUSD kids have suffered-- some faring better than others. In addition to prioritizing their safety and academic achievement, we must not forget about supporting their emotional health. All children should have access to a school counselor, not just during times of trouble and transition.

At the February 25 WJUSD School Board meeting Trustee Garcia requested funds be allocated towards extra counselors for schools (thank you!). Superintendent Pritchard informed Trustee Garcia that if the Board of Trustees approves of this expenditure at the March 25 board meeting the district will not be capable of hiring enough counselors by April 12.

On behalf of all students at Dingle Elementary School, please hire a full-time counselor for the 2020 - 2021 and 2021 - 2022 school years at a minimum.

Regardless of whether or not the counselors can be hired before April 12, I urge you to hire full-time counselors for all schools in the district. Whether they start April 30 or August 30, this needs to be a key use of state and federal funding.

Respectfully,
Leigh Ann Hartman

Good Evening WJUSD Trustees,

My public comment tonight may seem premature, but the start of the 2021-2022 school year will be here before we know it. To be honest, I'm disappointed. Disappointed most other districts could figure out a return before us. Disappointed it seems we are not looking to our neighboring districts for examples that work. Disappointed I have heard that the district has essentially squandered the last 6+ months by not developing concrete plans of what asynchronous elementary instruction during hybrid could look like, and here we are nearing the 11th hour. At this point, my kids emotional status' have been in steady decline since Winter

break, so I'm taking solace in the fact that they will return for some face-to-face instruction shortly.

I'm writing tonight as a plea for you all to start thinking about the start of the 2021-2022 school year NOW. By fall, all adults will have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. While all signs point to the fact that vaccination will not be the end all of this virus, I think we are at the point where we understand we will have to learn to live with it...mitigate and adapt. I have two daughters with very different experiences in the 2020-2021 school year. Both in dual immersion, one in 1st grade, one in 3rd. While I wouldn't call my 3rd grader "thriving" she's made due as the result of a teacher who truly went above and beyond. Sadly, my 1st grader wants nothing to do with DI any longer. We feel her reading is behind where it should be. Compared to my other daughter at this age, she understands very little Spanish. It's all incredibly disheartening.

My ask tonight is that you start thinking, planning, and making concrete decisions about the 2021-2022 school year now. Like so many parents, I desperately want to keep my girls in WJUSD public schools. There's so much value in our Prairie community I truly believe we cannot find anywhere else. That said, if full time in-person learning is not on the table for fall, we are out. Never would I have thought anything would make me pull my kids from our home district and take them to another, or a local private school, but we've had enough. After what they've experienced this year, their emotional wellbeing and the quality of their education has to be our number one priority, and I know so many other parents who feel the same.

So I beg of you, please start planning for a fall full return now. Figure it out early. Be the innovative district I know you can be. Please don't let our kids down again. Thank you for reading this letter.

Sincerely,
Amanda Linares

Dear Trustee Garcia and Ms. Villasenor,

At the February 25 WJUSD School Board meeting Trustee Garcia requested funds be allocated towards extra counselors for schools. Superintendent Pritchard informed Trustee Garcia that if the Board of Trustees approves of this expenditure at the March 25 board meeting the district will not be capable of hiring enough counselors by April 12.

On behalf of all students at Dingle Elementary School, please hire a full-time counselor for the 2020 - 2021 and 2021 - 2022 school years at a minimum.

This year, Dingle Elementary has had a counselor available to students two days per week. This is unacceptable.

Do not let perfect get in the way of good. Regardless of whether or not the counselors can be hired before April 12, we strongly urge you to hire full-time counselors for all schools in the district. Whether they start April 30 or August 30, this needs to be a key use of state and federal funding.

Respectfully,
Rojas Family

I want to start by saying I appreciate that the board heard the parents of Woodland when we rose up and said we want our kids back in school. I also appreciate the fact that there are many

factors that play into school reopening and that it is a difficult juggling act: ventilation, sanitation, teachers, distancing, PPE, cohorts, safety for all. All that just for a hybrid model. I imagine that opening full time would require even more in depth planning and efforts. That is why I write to you today. I am requesting that the board develop a plan to reopen schools at all levels for the fall, full time, and in person. I am requesting that this be addressed prior to the end of this school year so that everyone can plan accordingly-the district, schools, administration, teachers, kids, and parents. By the summer any adult who is willing will be able to get their COVID vaccination. There should be no reason not to plan for a full return. Many districts in the Greater Sacramento Area and Bay Area are back in school and our district needs to be too. If we do not, our children will continue to be further disadvantaged than they already are.

Thank you for the board's time and attention,
Beth Loesch

Hello board members

I would like someone from the middle schools to publicly address whether there will or will not be league sports played between schools this year

Thank you
Mike Owens

Good evening WJUSD Board of Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,
I am writing to you to broach the topic of an in-person graduation for the senior class of 2021. As we are all aware it has been an entire year now that our seniors have been out of school and they have missed entirely every opportunity and memory made during their senior year. As we also are well aware graduation is right around the corner. I want to begin by thanking trustee Bautista-Zavala for bringing up the topic of planning for graduation last November When she asked for it to be put on the next board meeting agenda. Sadly she was denied this opportunity, but I do believe she had our children's best interest at heart and I wanted to recognize her for that. That being said, we are now at a critical time where we need to decide and have a plan for graduation. I hope, as well as many other parents of seniors, that our school district will be making the right decision by allowing an in-person graduation for our senior class. I understand that the audience may be limited in number and maybe the graduation will be just for the students; however, I do hope that we are taking steps as a school district to provide an amazing final experience for our senior class to have a graduation in-person outside on their own school campuses in their caps and gowns with a live stream service for those who are not able to attend. Thank you for your time and pre-planning a memorable commencement for the class of 2021.

Sincerely,
A WJUSD Parent of a senior

Dear Trustees,

My name is Tahnee Sweeney, I am the WEA Treasurer and Co-chair of the WEA Organizing Committee. I am a parent of a sixth grader and fourth grader who have had to navigate distance learning this year like everyone else. Please do not be tempted to reopen any earlier

than planned. With the already established plan our students are better protected from 1.) changes to routine if the reopening is not done right which will be especially hard on some students 2.) the virus - if all our teachers have been fully vaccinated with two weeks after their second dose of vaccine passing for it to be effective 3.) lack of equitable completion and implementation of planned safety mitigations. Do not abandon your plan to begin and expand on site asymptomatic testing of students and staff, with frequency based on rates of infection tiers. Do not negatively impact retention of our quality teachers by not providing time for them to become fully vaccinated. It is unfortunate that the recent plan from the state could actually result in setting back plans for asymptomatic testing in some districts, and remove a layer of protection for students of having fully vaccinated teachers. Carry out a plan that values lives and health, over the convenience of giving up and surrendering to containment of the virus, just to meet an anniversary date, a date the virus does not care about. The CDC is warning people that we have simply plateaued at a very high level of daily fatalities, 2000 a day, and strong mitigation efforts are required to prevent a third wave of COVID. We are entering into new headwinds with the COVID19 variants, we must be cautious. Take steps to try and ensure our students can remain in school once it opens. Ensure you have taken every diligent step you know of to protect the lives of our students, their families, our educators, their families and all community members - especially those most affected by COVID. 27% of teachers across the country are considering leaving the profession this year because of COVID19. We have the opportunity to lessen that impact on our students by showing we value the highly trained educators they have relationships with, and our health and hopes for ourselves and students to be safe.

Sincerely,
Tahnee Sweeney

To the Board:

I wanted to express how excited my children are to have the opportunity to go back to school this year. I have a kindergartener and a third grader who are eagerly awaiting the April 12th start date. I personally would like the start date to be sooner (last week of March) and wish this were a return to full-time instruction (which is happening in other districts).

I am very concerned about learning loss and I do not think two days of synchronous instruction is enough. I think it is too much to ask teachers to teach concurrently and it would diminish the impact of in-person learning. I would like the board to consider a summer school option this year for our students to address learning loss. I am also looking for a commitment from the board to a return to regular full-time school schedules this Fall. We absolutely cannot be here again next year.

Thank you,
Corinne McCoy Leles

I question how truly prepared the Board, district, M/O, and the site principals really are as it seems there is a disconnect between what you say you will do and what is actually taking place. Parents of athletes have already filled out clearance packets and signed forms. I can tell you that as a parent I did not sign an informed consent form with regards to Covid, and yet in the presentation you will hear, it says we will. So which is it? My son is currently participating in a

sport without this form. Will you order all play to stop until this form is signed Parents and students also signed a code of conduct that included class attendance and grades, yet I have been told that is no longer applicable and students with Fs and grades below a 2.0 can now participate in order to be equitable. So, which is it?

At a previous board meeting, two trustees said they don't care how much learning takes place in the last 45 days of school, yet in the presentation you will hear that this is important. In addition to this, Principals and district staff have said that in the case of our middle and high school students, equity isn't important since parents are choosing to keep their kids home and that in these trying time we have to be ok with good enough. One of the best practices that was shared was to have a student type what is being said in to a google doc in case kids at home can not hear during live instruction. Another said that if we're working with hot glue in class that kids at home could just use a glue stick because we can't afford to buy them for the kids at home.

In the presentation coming it says you will work to ensure the safety of all students and staff. Yet at a previous board meeting, the representative from county health cautioned you that while little kids do not seem to spread Covid, that the spread from middle and high schoolers is more like adults. Yet, we are sending this group back to the classroom, do you really care about staff safety? Your HR is telling people that if they have had Covid, vaccines or accommodations are not needed as they have at least 3 months of immunity and should be able to make it to the end of the year. HR is also telling staff it does not matter if you have an immediate family members at severe risk for Covid, you don't qualify for any accommodations. I am also concerned as to the interpretation of safety guidelines from one campus or program to the next. Prior to Covid, we were not allowed to hand children Lysol wipes to clean things and yet are now being told it is ok and that students can use them to clean desks, microscopes, and anything else that might be shared. Hands on activities are actively being encouraged with staff. One school says no shared equipment, another says it's ok. Administrators are applying the rules of athletics to PE, saying teachers can team teach since 50:1 is ok, forgetting that PE is actually a class students have to take. Where are the stable cohorts? Where are the safeguards to keep teachers with the same kids without mixing? Where is the testing for students and staff?

With regards to ventilation, this is something that should have been planned out long ago as opposed to things we are still looking in to. I am fairly certain that in the last year none of our schools have under gone major remodeling, no major structural changes. Explain to me how a teacher in the 1000 building at Woodland High School is supposed to open a door or a window to increase air flow. The rumor is that air purifiers will be provided for classrooms that do not have doors or windows that open to the outside. How is this possible since a recommendation has not been brought to the board and isn't expected until later in March? I am fairly certain that we knew and have known for the last 45 years that many classrooms at WHS do not have doors or windows that open to the outside. Why are you just now researching your options if the safety of students and staff is a guiding principle?

Then there is the issue of the one size fits all video that will be sent home to parents to explain all of the safety and return to school procedures. The same video will be used for elementary, middle and high school. The same video for Prairie as for Gibson and Beamer. Please explain to me how 150 parents will wait in their cars to have their child screened at Gibson as this is not in

the video. Or what will happen to the kids that would normally walk or ride their bike to school. What about the kids that are dropped off by an older sibling who needs to be at school also at 8am? Or how staff members will get their children to school since they are not able to leave them without screening and yet need to be at their own place of employment by 7:45? Again, this is not in the video. Or how are staff members suppose to pick up their own children now that elementary schools will be done sooner than middle and high schools? Prior to Covid arrangements could be made with our principals but faculty and staff have since been told that we need to be on campus until 15 minutes past the end of our school day, no exception. This is not in the video.

I ask all of you to request real answers, not political double speak. Ask to actually see the plans for each school and walk each campus to see if what the plans say makes sense for students and staff. Ask yourself would I feel 100% comfortable placing my child or myself in the position you are asking your teachers and your constituents to place themselves in. As an employee of the district will you as the board come back face to face when the students and staff do? Perhaps I could recommend a concurrent model where you field in person and online comments and discussions at the same time...the teachers are doing it and have been told it is best practice.

Kristina Vannucci

School Board Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,

Thank you for the work you have done and continue to do as we move closer to our children being back in the classroom 5 days a week. We are parents of two WJUSD students (a 6th grader at Sci-Tech Elementary and 8th grader at Douglass Middle school). One of us works in public education while the other is an essential worker who was never able to close his business and stop providing his accounting services to his clients.

The children in this community have been out of school for one year now. They have struggled with navigating distance learning in different ways, many have experienced significant social and emotional impact due to the isolation we as a district have created and continue to provide to our students, and have been put in a position in which they were their own teachers as well as much supports they received in school simply stopped. Most importantly though after a full year of school closure what weighs most heavily on many of our minds is not just the here and now, but what will the lasting effects of school closure be for our WJUSD students? What will this do to their next steps in their school career which for our children means transition to middle school and transition to high school...will they really be ready to tackle that next level of education...no they will not. We will continue to provide all of the resources we can as a family to support them, but when will our district recognize that every family is different and not every family has access to the same resources for a variety of reasons. This translates to not every student is going to transition back to school and move back into their same trajectory of learning as before closure. This school year and the temporary solution which the district provided (distance learning) not to mention all of the students who have transferred to private schools because their family had the means and resources to make that happen so their child could continue in person learning is the biggest example of inequity we have ever seen in public education. We would hope our district would be ashamed to say that is the best they can do by students.

This is not just about missed opportunities and experiences that only happen in that one grade, learning loss, or students missing their teachers and friends anymore. Our continued school closures with no plan for a 5 day per week return this school year leave us wondering what missed opportunities will our children experience as they travel life's path? We sincerely hope our school board and school district is beginning to view things through this lens as well.

While we are happy to see a hybrid model of learning coming soon we are also afraid that the financial aid or "carrot" put fourth to districts in which schools will return to at least a hybrid model by 3/31 losing 1% per day there after is the main reason it is happening at this time. What will be the motivation for WJUSD to continue to move forward? Most educators who want the vaccine have at least received their first dose by now. Our county positivity numbers have dramatically decreased over this past month and will only continue to do so or at least remain stable as the vaccine availability is made more widespread (which has been rapidly progressing in California this past month). How can we possibly say it still isn't safe to be back in school 5 days per week? We as a community have given this school district and our teachers so much time and privilege when many others were forced to continue to go to work and maintain other responsibilities potentially risking exposing themselves to COVID regularly. In our last school board meeting Trustee Villagrana stated he had always thought of what was best for the student prior to COVID, then he began to think of what was best for staff and student once closures happened and discussions were underway about how to return/open, but now he is back to thinking about only what is best for the student.

We hope that all of our school board members shift their thinking to this view if not already and expect our school district to do better by our community requesting they provide plans for both safety and curriculum delivery by the end of this school year regarding a 5 day in person model to begin no later than the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Thank You,
Brian and Ann Christison

Hello,

My daughter is a first grader at Gibson Elementary. She is flourishing in the distance learning model. She absolutely loves her teacher and the community they have built online within her classroom. It is essential that she is allowed to continue with her teacher for her continued success. I am able to stay home with her and facilitate her education, as well as provide opportunities for peer interactions as a home childcare provider. I am not comfortable exposing her in an in person classroom setting, or requiring her to wear a mask for 6+ hours. I am not confident in the ability of her peers to physically distance or wear PPE in an effective way. It is necessary for my daughter to be allowed to continue distance learning in the manner in which she has grown accustomed, with her teacher and classmates.

Courtney Guerrero

Distinguished members of the Woodland Joint Unified School District Board.

My name is William Vannucci, and I am a senior at Woodland High School. My mother is an employee within the district. My sister also is enrolled in wjUSD. Last year, she was diagnosed with a rare lung disease called Valley Fever, from which she is still battling. In the fall, my mom was able to make the decision to work from home vs going into work in order to protect her

and the rest of our family. Now that we are beginning to open back up, she was no longer able to make the decision, but has to apply to work from home. Recently, she brought home the news that despite applying for ADA accommodations, she was told that they were denied, and that she was not eligible for ADA accommodations, such as being able to work from home. I would like to know why that is. My sister has a deadly disease, which both compromises her immune system, as well as severely weakens her lungs. We also found out later that she had been living with a collapsed lung for nearly a month because of it. Why is it that my mother is unable to work from home to protect my sister from a virus that attacks the lungs, and takes advantage of weakened immune systems? Please tell me how this decision is putting the safety of the teachers and students first.

And before you say that my mom will teach better when she's actually at school, this is not true. Night after night I listen to my parents stress as to how she's going to rewrite her lesson plan and how she runs her classroom for the third time this year, as well as how she can teach kids in a way where it mitigates the chances of her bringing Covid-19 back to my sister. I watch her teach her class every once in a while, and while I'm not in a different room than her, I think the way she does it is phenomenal. She's able to get the kids to both engage in the assignment at hand, as well as convey information in a way that the students retain it. So she is completely capable of teaching her class at home for the time being.

So again I ask, why is my mom not allowed to work from home? Why is it that wanting to protect an immediate family member does not warrant being able to work from home? It is extremely concerning how the district is deciding what members can and cannot work from home due to various medical conditions. I understand that there is not much that can be done if this is the final decision, as well as the need to get kids back in the classroom, but I would just like you to understand and know that my family has been taking every precaution possible in order to protect my sister. Therefore, if anything happens to my sister, it is your fault.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing back from you.

William Vannucci

Hello,

We are parents to children at Sci-Tech Elementary.

Could you provide clarity on the hybrid schedule for elementary students? Is it definite that the hybrid option is two full days on campus and three days distance learning, or is there a possibility that the two days on campus will be half days?

It was my understanding that the board voted on two full days in person, but our school indicated tonight that it was not confirmed whether the days on campus would be full or half days. Half days are logistically challenging at best, and impossible for some families. With all of the safety protocols to return, half days seem unnecessary, and would minimize the benefit of in-person instruction with no less work and effort required by teachers and staff to accommodate students back on campus.

Could you provide thoughts or goals for increasing in-person instruction over time? Is there any likelihood that we'll move into Phase 4 or 5 before summer break? I am concerned that if we stay in Phase 3 for the remainder of the year, we become less likely to return in the fall to full in person instruction (assuming it is safe and advised by health experts to do so). If movement to

later phases this year is not likely, would you anticipate the ability to move from Phase 3 at the end of this year to Phase 5 at the start of next year?

It feels as though the district was caught a bit without a plan at the ready, or consensus with the teachers union, when we were able to safely return in some capacity this spring. I'd like the board's assurance that you are looking ahead to how we can move into later phases and full in person instruction, under the assumption that we continue to move into tiers of less and eventually minimal risk.

Thank you,
Gina Reed

My child only hears their teacher's voice for about 2 hours a day in a regular school day. Then, sent off to do 1 or 2 assignments and some iReady. My child used to thrive. Now, my child is stuck hardly learning a thing and disengaged. Distance Learning has failed my child and so many others.

There were only 3 cases in Woodland today. Teachers are vaccinated. There is no excuse to not allow full day instruction. Stop failing our kids!

I am pleased that the District remains committed to returning **all** grades to school on April 12 and thank you for that decision, however...

I want to make two points tonight in my message:

While the District was unwilling/unable to consider a full time return this spring, I strongly urge the District/Board to ensure that plans are in place so that children in all grades may resume to **full time** instruction at the beginning of the fall term. We must stop the bleeding (and complete lack of learning). We are failing our children (and not because the teachers aren't trying, but because the distance learning in any fashion, doesn't work). Please plan now to return our children to full time in person instruction for the fall and bring back extra curricular activities as soon as it is practicable. They children have lost so much; please put them first and return them to full time school.

The hybrid model set to begin on April 12 which includes two 1/2 days of in person instruction and two 1/2 days of distance learning (where little to no learning takes place) does not work for any working parent. Parents with jobs have turned themselves inside out to manage the stay at home learning are now supposed to be transporting children to school and then back again within a very few hours. How does this work? No parent can hold down a job when it requires a mid-day shuffle - this simply doesn't work for any working parent and has the appearance of the District/Board setting the model up to fail, possibly so as to do an "I told you parents did not support in person learning" (only because some parents will be forced to choose distance learning in order to keep their jobs and feed their families) - I hope that is not the case. The hybrid model doesn't even begin to address Wednesday's proposed *asynchronous* learning, which is quite the misnomer. Now instead of being with their teachers on a daily basis, the children are not only losing time each day, but losing an entire day each week. Get real - this is not an effective learning methodology.

My point remains simple - "Our children deserve better."

Georgia Cochra

WJUSD School Board,

I am the father of a 1st grader at SciTech Academy. I wanted to write briefly because although the school district has committed to reopening schools on April 12, I am still unclear about many of the details of the reopening, and there are too many questions up in the air for me to be comfortable. Will my son be able to ride the bus? When is drop off and pick up? I have heard rumors that half days are still not off the table. This is alarming to me, because both my wife and I work full time, and half days are probably not going to be possible for us. It makes me sick to imagine how my son will feel if some kids get to go back to school for half days, but he is not able to do so because we are not able to accommodate this limited schedule. The details of the reopening need to be worked out and announced NOW. Half days are not acceptable for our family, and I'm sure for many other families as well. We want the best possible outcome for our kids, but whatever the outcome, we need to have the chance to start planning for it as soon as possible.

Blaine Christiansen

Dear WJUSD board,

This public comment pertains to the details of upcoming hybrid instruction model as part of Phase 3 reopening. In an informational zoom session with our elementary school administration today, we learned that WJUSD was perhaps considering MINIMUM days on the in-person days for hybrid instruction rather than 2 full days. This came as a major surprise to most parents, since WJUSD has had the sample elementary schedule approved and posted online for many weeks now. This example schedule clearly indicates on-site lunch and afternoon in-person instruction, so it was shocking to hear that the district was perhaps considering anything less than this for the 2 in-person days for elementary students. Minimum days are EXTREMELY INEQUITABLE to working families. I honestly don't know how many working parents can arrange for mid-day pick-up of their children and then half-day childcare for the remaining part of those 2 days, and then full day childcare for the other 3 days. This is FAR more disruptive and logistically challenging than either 2 full in-person days or all virtual instruction.

Approximately 50% of the parents on our call tonight indicated that minimum days would change their decision about whether or not to return, and many parents could not believe that they were being asked to decide on whether to attend hybrid instruction without being explicitly told that minimum days were a possibility.

Let me be clear, minimum days are a step in the WRONG direction and will effectively keep more children out of the classroom due to logistical challenges. If you are committed to bringing our children back to school, then bring them back for - at least - 2 FULL DAYS. Anything less is completely unacceptable and is will erode the trust you have built with families and students over these past several difficult weeks.

Thank you,

Crystal Ripplinger

Dear Trustees,

I am a parent of three children. Two attend Zamora. In September we began homeschooling our 5th grader, who was an excellent student and member of gate, but he realized digital

school was not meeting his educational needs. We kept our first grader and third grader in digital learning despite their pleas, due to their young age, a choice which I now deeply regret. They were both very good students who loved school. That is no longer the case. We are a happy, supportive family, with both parents at home. I described our circumstances so you understand that the impact of digital school on children with more challenging situations is very severe and dire. I, like so many parents have been watching every board meeting, hoping that our leaders would follow suit with the nation. I was not pleased that the best we could do was two days a week beginning April 12. Just about everyone I work with (who span various nearby counties) already have their kids back to some degree in the public schools OR will be going back in March. This is despite the fact that Yolo County is in a lower tier than these surrounding counties. Please understand that what is being offered is the bare minimum. Now I am reading that the two days may be half days due to fears about lunch time. This is unacceptable. I want to communicate that what is being done to the families of WJUSD is going to have negative long-term impacts on our community. Many families have left for private schools and other Districts, and may never come back. Many of us are considering leaving. You are leaving us no choice. Furthermore, letting down the children of our community like this is going to poison many peoples support for our school District and public schools in general. Please listen to the health experts and families and get our children back for two regular days. Please help restore our faith and trust in WJUSD.

Thank you for your time.

Angela Thompson

Dear Woodland School Board,

Hello, I'm a mother of two elementary school children at Tafoya Elementary school. They've been doing distant learning for exactly 1 year. No contact with their peers, teacher or friends. They've been on the screen more than their own lifetime.

It's been brought to my attention that the schedule for in person could be only half a day twice a week. That amounts to about 8 hours a week and a total of about 72 hours in school with other human contact. In addition, that's only 18 days, but really 9 FULL days in person (using a typical 6 hour school day). This is UNACCEPTABLE and not REALISTIC for our children K-6!!! How are working parents supposed to work if their kids only go back half a day? I'm a teacher myself and along with all the other working parents, there's no childcare that's feasible right now.

These school aged children NEED to return and full time even if it's only 2 days a week.

You asked for teachers and staff to get vaccinated and they are. So, they are safe. Why can't these children be given a LITTLE bit of time to have some normalcy at school? Research has proven that kids aren't transmitting the virus. So, with proper safety precautions, they SHOULD be able to return. Other districts in California are going back 5 days a week. Look at Woodland Christian. They've been back for a long time. They haven't had any real issues all year. So Woodland could be just the same.

As many parents have probably stated, the mental health of these children is already a huge concern and it's not going to disappear even after the pandemic. So why contribute more to it? Let's help those families who want to return to in person and give these children the opportunity to BE kids and students for the rest of the year.

I have a friend whose daughter is failing kindergarten because she's unfocused and

unmotivated to learn. She's FIVE!!! Failing kindergarten because she's surfing on YouTube instead of doing her work? Teachers expect her WORKING parents to stay on top of her. For goodness sakes! If she were IN PERSON, maybe school would be more MEANINGFUL to her as her FIRST year!! This will DESTROY her love of school!

Please reconsider the schedule to 2 full days so that these children, OUR FUTURE can start having some normalcy.

Thank you for listening to my letter.

Sincerely,

Meredith Komula

Good Morning,

I applaud the hard work of the board. Thank you for your diligence in pushing forward with reopening.

However, I do not applaud the district. You have had a year to prepare. You have resources and districts all around who will offer help in doing so safely and with science. Which says GET THE KIDS BACK IN SCHOOL. I am disheartened to hear that the district in negotiations with WEA may be leaning towards two half days. This is unacceptable and will create an even bigger equity gap.

In addition, if my child is forced into two half days, I will guarantee that she, along with many others will be unable to complete the second half of their day asynchronous as plans have rumored. She will be exhausted from a long busy morning with her amazing teacher in person. We will need to shuffle to various daycare situations and pick ups. Therefore that afternoon school time will likely be a waste for us (and many I am sure.) This plan is NOT best practice or what is best for the kids and students!!!

The board is here to work for the kids. Not what is best for anyone else. Please support and protect their learning. Get them back. Two FULL days of learning are a minimum when schools and districts are opening full time all around us!

In addition, I plead with you to not let time lapse in creating a plan for FULL return for fall. You have shown us that planning takes a lot of time for the wjUSD staff and board. So take that time STARTING NOW! Begin your plans on schedules and safety for a full reopen in fall without delay.

Thank you again board. Your hard work and recent change of heart do not go unnoticed by the parents and community. We have your back. Hold the teachers union and district staff accountable and accept nothing less than TWO FULL DAYS!

Thank you,

Amanda

Trustees, Superintendent Pritchard and Staff,

Can someone please explain why our elementary children are not going back to full time in-person learning? According to your swiss cheese model, the vaccine is the last line of defense for teachers. Schools can not reopen, in WJUSD, until teachers are fully vaccinated. So, if our teachers will be fully vaccinated why can't our children go back full time for the remainder of the year?

We have waited a year for the union teachers to get everything they have wanted/needed. Our kids have suffered, but that is ok because the union teachers are obviously the priority. They now have everything they need to teach safely. So I ask again, why are our kids not going back full time?

I know many teachers in the state of California who have been back in the classroom full time since November (even teachers in our own city!). These individuals are teaching in counties that are still in the purple tier and were when they re-opened schools. They didn't demand vaccinations before getting back in the classroom because they realized that the kids are the priority. At what point will the WJUSD kids become the priority?

-A Frustrated, Tired Parent

Dear Trustees,

My children are so excited about returning to school for Phase 3! I already can see the positive change in their mental health, just with a start date already set! I understand that many details are still up in the air until the results of how many students will be returning come in. I am asking that we do no less than two FULL days of in person learning. Our students need as much in person experience as they can get, and two half days is shortchanging them and they deserve to have at least two full days a week after being out of school for so long. In person learning is essential, not a privilege. Half days would be a nightmare for working parents to navigate, and with our teachers getting fully vaccinated before school starts, I don't think two full days a week is too much to ask for after the year our students have endured.

Also, if these current trends continue, and our cases keep going down, and with more vaccinations, and less community spread, I truly hope that WJUSD is planning for a full reopening for the fall barring any unforeseen circumstances like another surge. Our kids have suffered long enough, and they deserve to return to normal as soon as possible, we cannot drag this out any more.

We need to start fixing the learning loss and their mental health and full time instruction for the fall is a must. I urge the district to please start planning this now, so there are no more delays and no more time gets wasted. We cannot let this continue into another school year. The cost is too high for our students. Parents also need time to know what is being planned for the fall, because we need to know to make plans.

Thank you for listening to my letter and for doing what is right for the students.

Jennifer Garcia

My name is Brigit Huxsoll and I'm writing to you once again on behalf of my 4 school age children. We are thankful that you have set a date to reopen. When you emphasized that we need to open for the well being of our students it brought tears to my eyes because that is exactly the point and why our group of over 600 parents continues to advocate for our children. I learned that there is talk of bargaining to get our 2 in person days to be minimum days. I hope this is an awful rumor because this would be absolutely unacceptable. Two minimum days a week would not be enough in person time in for the necessary socialization these children have been deprived of for a YEAR now. If minimum days are desired then you must offer 5 days of in person instruction. The reality is though that most of your families have working parents and having to transport their children from school to child care at lunchtime would be a huge

hardship for them. I acknowledge the hybrid schedule is not ideal, the solution is to offer full time instruction for those that are ready. This would be easier both for teachers and families. Woodland Christain has had full sized classes 5 days a week since October and has even stopped doing morning temperature checks because it is safe for children and teachers to be at school. Woodland Christain School has informed everyone today that they will not even offer distance learning in the fall. Please stop the inequity in education that is happening in our town and get our schools fully opened.

I beg you to offer full days on the 2 days my children attend in person. I would like to urge you to begin planning and negotiating now for full time in person learning to be offered by the fall start of school if not sooner. All adults will have the opportunity to be vaccinated as soon as May. No more excuses. Open our schools. Our children are depending on you.

Dear WJUSD Board-

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. Two days of in person learning is a start, but it can and should be more. We should be able to fully reopen schools and I beg you to not be complacent and continue moving toward a full reopening plan this fall. Our public schools have lost hundreds of great kids to the private schools already, and it's truly sad, when there is no reason our schools can't also be open full time. This community is begging you to stick to the science and continue with this reopening plan and ensure that they are full days of instruction. We have heard there are discussions of only doing half days for in person learning, and this would be absolutely unacceptable. The kids will be getting only half the education/support and socialization they need, not to mention the logistics of half days are impossible for working parents. Please don't let the union sway your decision and we thank you for your continued efforts for a full 5 day reopening plan.

Allyson Pinegar

My name is Monica Marcheschi and I'm writing to you once again on behalf of my 2 school age children. We are thankful that you have set a date to reopen, it's at least a start in getting out of the fear cycle. When you emphasized that we need to open for the well being of our students, I was ecstatic, because that is exactly the point and why our group of over 600 parents continues to advocate for our children. My 9th grader is so anxious to get off of the computer all day. It is taking a toll. My 2nd grader is often found under her desk or hiding from me. I'm constantly telling her to pay attention to a screen.

I've heard talk of bargaining to get our 2 in person days to be minimum days. I hope this is an awful rumor because this would be absolutely unacceptable. Two minimum days a week would

not be enough in person time in for the necessary socialization these children have been deprived of for a YEAR now. If minimum days are desired then you must offer 5 days of in person instruction. My 2 sisters in Utah are both teacher there and have been in school 5/days a week since August. They think Californians are doing the wrong thing for our kids and feel so bad for all the kids that are left behind and losing so much in a year.

Next fall, full time instruction should be offered for those that are ready. This would be easier both for teachers and families. Woodland Christain has full sized classes 5 days a week since October and has even stopped doing morning temperature checks because it is safe for children and teachers to be at school. Woodland Christain School has informed everyone today that they will not even offer distance learning in the fall. I plan on switching my kids to private school if this 2 days a week with 3 hours only rumor is true, but will continue to fight for kids here in our community. Please stop the inequity in education that is happening in our town and get our schools fully opened.

No more excuses. Open our schools. Our children are depending on you.

Good evening WJUSD trustees and Superintendent Pritchard.

I writing you tonight to urge you, to please begin to plan for Phase 4 in the reopening process & implement it as soon as we are eligible. I am a parent of 2 young elementary school kids who attend Plainfield Elementary. They used to love going to school, but almost daily remind me how much the hate it now.

It is clear that phase 3 is going to be a very difficult phase for teachers, students, and parents. All teachers who have wanted a vaccine will have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated by the April 12 return date. Case numbers have continued to trend down. Phase 4 seems like it will be much easier to implement for our teachers and will serve our students best as well. Our teachers will not have to worry about essentially planning & teaching 2 separate classes, and the students will have more time IN school which they desperately need. Our children have lost out on so many critical months of in person instruction. They have also lost out on nearly a year of social & emotional development that distance or hybrid 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. When phase 3 is considered safe & successful, we need to move forward into phase 4 as soon as possible. Many other schools around the country are safely & successfully able to attend in person, 5 full days, even several in our own town! Our students need to be back in school 5 days per week as soon as possible. Thank you for your time.

Jackie Gness
