

January 12, 2021 Board Meeting

Public Comments regarding Distance Learning (Received by 2:30 pm. On January 12, 2021):

Comment 1:

I am a parent of two children in FSD: Golden Hill and Raymond DLA. My son is in the hybrid model and my daughter is a full distance learner. I am writing to encourage the board to go back to a full distance model, perhaps with a child care option that you are trying out the second week of January.

Distance learning was going great to my deep surprise back when school started in August, but when half the kids went back to the classroom, it was just too much for the teachers to manage Zoom effectively AND the in person kids effectively. The actual education of our children is being impacted negatively. Yes schools provide social interaction, but parents can arrange outdoor playdates for that. Yes, the schools provide a child care function, but perhaps the new model could help parents who need it. What seems to not be prioritized is actual education and learning, which I think is being compromised in the current split teaching model.

I would encourage the board to allow teachers to focus their efforts on distance instruction only, for everyone's safety and for our children's educational success. Offering the outdoor child care option may work to support those families who need school to offer that service.

Thanks for listening to my thoughts!

All my best in the new year,
Keiko Suda- Parent

Comment 2:

Please keep FSD on Distance Learning until the vaccines are in widespread distribution. FSD currently has 57 staff with active COVID-19 cases, and 130 additional staff has had it since October.

Teachers are in short supply. We need to keep our teaching staff, and students, safe. Help is on the way with a vaccine, and the OC Health Agency says that vaccinations for teachers will be happening by February. In addition to the teachers, many of them live with people who are vulnerable to the infection. Teachers should not be forced to teach in-person, risking contagion that they could carry home to family members. Additionally, while our teachers have been absolutely amazing, requiring them to teach in person and to students on Zoom simultaneously is incredibly hard.

Orange County has a large population of people who are not following science. There are restaurants open for in-person dining in spite of the restrictions, and we have not even hit the spike yet from people gathering for the holidays. Distance learning is not

optimal for students. But it is a safer option for the teachers and students. The new mutation has been shown to be active in California, and it is significantly more contagious and more children are getting sick. Wait until teachers and staff are vaccinated before opening the schools again.

Thank you,
Crystina Kazmier

Comment 3:

As the state has issued a stay at home order until ICU capacity drops below 15%, I feel I have responsibilities to the community, my family and students. The ICU capacity is worse now than it was when the stay at home order was originally implemented. According to research, the cases in the ICU now are from Thanksgiving. Current research is projecting a peak in infections on Jan. 27th with peak mortality after that around Feb. 9th. I realize some of our students need daycare and the safest place for them is at school. However, I do not feel that we should increase the amount of people not staying at home to reopen in-person learning for all students and staff.

I am in a unique situation in which I have been able to loop with many of my students from last year. They were well trained on the technology and the communication with the students and families was strong. Our time with distance learning in the spring and fall was challenging, but successful. Since we have reopened the campus, I have noticed a dramatic decrease in engagement. Unfortunately, I have also noticed an increase in student anxiety. It was a relief to see an improvement in the one week we had returned to distance learning. I feel that although distance learning is not as beneficial as in-person instruction, our students are better served with remote learning at this time. The combination of distance learning and classroom instruction has not been adequate and takes away from both so that neither are implemented well.

Although the staff and administration at our site are following the district guidelines and doing their best in this situation, I do not feel that the district has done their best to keep everyone safe. School would be safest if our students, teachers and cohorts were frequently tested in a strict bubble without any mixing of classes or adults. At a minimum, we should decrease the time spent indoors and have students eat at home or outside. In addition, the district should update their COVID-19 dashboard to reflect current cases and accurate real time numbers at each site. Although time consuming, it is crucial for all involved to have a more accurate, timely reflection of the numbers. Often, some numbers don't get published until other numbers have been removed.

I believe the best scenario for our district would be to keep students and staff safe at home until we have 70-80% vaccinated. I would feel safe at school when our county's daily new case rate has dropped below 7 per 100k and at the least, when ICU bed capacity is 15% or higher.

Thank you,
Christine Hervey-Murray

Comment 4:

I am writing to inform you that I DO NOT feel comfortable returning to school while Covid cases continue to increase.

Last December, I was exposed to Covid and I quarantined. I was fortunate NOT to have contracted the virus. I was lucky!

I do not want to take my chances of contracting Covid by going back to school. I was lucky the first time and I do not want to tempt fate.

As a person exposed to Covid, I quarantined in my room and my husband slept in the living room. I wore my mask around my family. No physical contact (and hugs) from my children. During the entire quarantine period, my family experienced increased tension and anxiety. This situation could have been avoided.

In my family, we strictly follow the CDC guidelines. I respectfully request that schools continue on Distance Learning to keep our kids and staff safe and to do our part in curbing Covid cases.

Sincerely,
Maria Hertzberg, Instructional Aide

Comment 5:

Hi board members,

Covid-19 rates are so high right now I believe you should take extraordinary and new steps to protect your teachers, staff and students. Let's keep education online for all who want it that way. There is enough suffering and fear already, and we don't want anyone to becoming infected or ill in Fullerton schools. Let's avoid anxiety and terrible outcomes for our Fullerton community members.

We know more about the spread of Covid 19 than we did in the past. Although safety measures like masks, sanitizing, and six feet in an enclosed room are wise, these are NOT a guarantee to keep everyone safe. The virus is air-born and travels throughout any room with the air flow. It can be transmitted anywhere the air flows in the room and can infect others even through masks. You are playing lottery with the people indoors inside classrooms or offices together.

Fullerton has a history of good relationships with teachers. I ask you to allow all teachers who wish to teach from home to continue to do so. It isn't safe or ethical to force anyone back in the classroom who doesn't want to be there or feel safe there. We appreciate this choice for our kids and ask you give it to the teachers as well.

Sincerely,
Mia Sevier – Parent and community member

Comment 6:

I appreciate the decision to keep the majority of the FSD staff and students safe the first two weeks after the Winter Break. We have all seen the numbers of positive cases that came through this week. Having our schools closed saved so much work, additional pivoting and possibly saved lives by not contributing to the spread of this virus.

I do understand the position we are in to provide a place for children while parents work. Unfortunately, we have no idea what the real numbers are for children who contract the virus and spread it. Many are not being tested or do not inform the school when they contract the virus.

As our county is in the purple tier and restaurants are not even allowed to serve outside, I wonder how it can be safe to bring our students together in our classrooms. They eat inside our rooms without masks on. Even though they are asked to stay 6 feet apart, they don't always do so. That is just a fact. I spend a lot of time reminding them of the safety rules. They aren't being disrespectful, they truly just forget, it isn't normal for them. I sometimes even forget. It is a natural inclination to go and help a student when they need something.

Many of our Title I kids live in multi-generational households. Will they be asymptomatic and take covid back to their grandparents? Will children who do not know they have covid come to school and give it to their friends and teachers? I know people are embarrassed to tell others that they have COVID. Parents are not all being upfront and reporting it to the school. How do we know if our students are healthy? Not everyone gets a fever!

In addition, I have been looking at the actual numbers of students that are coming to the school site. As the virus is getting worse, the in-person numbers are getting lower. I also understand that we are using our rainy day fund to help sustain all of the safety and support features we have established. How much is this burdening our budget? How much extra is that per child who is coming f2f? Is it really worth it? What if we go into year 2 (I hate to even say that out loud but none of us dreamed we would be doing this still in January 2021!) Will we have any money left to continue the safety and support we have in place or will we have to skimp on that due to budget?

Please seriously consider keeping FSD on Distance learning while our county is still on the Purple Tier.

Pam Keller- Multi Age Program Teacher

Comment 7:

Please keep school campuses closed for now. We are still purple, our numbers are climbing, and it's not safe for our kids, teachers, and the community.

I live on the border of Brea/Fullerton. I'm local and this is crucial for our community!

Jen Lau

Comment 8:

Please continue distance learning ONLY until Orange County is out of the purple tier. It is safer for students and staff, especially when our ICUs are at capacity.

Thank you,
Rebecca Darter

Comment 9:

Please commit to distance learning ONLY at least until the county is out of the purple tier.

Cassidy Vare

Comment 10:

Please continue distance learning only until our county is out of the purple tier
Melissa Proctor

Comment 11:

As Covid continues to rage through Orange County and the country at large, we are once again forced to have a conversation around the reopening of school campuses. Cases are at an all time high, much worse than we saw in March when we first closed as a safety precaution. Thus far we have catered to those in favor of open campuses. In our current situation, the rational choice would be a continuation of distance learning for all.

We are not safe. We as teachers are in a position in which we must defend ourselves from those in the community who would see us put in harms way, by not reporting positive Covid cases, ignoring symptoms, or engaging in unsafe activities. Our school covid dashboards are not up to date, nor are they an accurate reflection of cases. In the week and a half leading up to winter break, we were notified of five positive cases on campus, resulting in mandatory quarantining for staff. These are just the cases we know about. The last notification received indicated that there had thus far been more than 60 positive cases among staff across the district following the holiday break--JUST staff. How many students are now positive? We have no idea. Until there is transparency and trust, teachers and staff cannot be assured of their safety on campus.

Distance learning has been established and is successful. We have proven for nearly a year that we are capable and willing to teach via distance learning. The district has provided tools to the students necessary for this format, and we have been successful. To make DL even more successful, we need parent engagement at a level that should be the established norm--extending the conversation beyond simply "did you do your homework?" Parents have an opportunity to really engage, and see first hand student challenges and progress. This can only lead to more positive parent teacher relationships moving forward.

Erin Patinella, LVA

Comment 12:

My children and I have proudly been part of the Fullerton School District community for the last 13 years. As a parent, scientist, and friend to many FSD teachers I urge you to delay return to any form of in-person instruction while the community rates of COVID-19 are so high. The science of COVID transmission is clear; gathering in indoor spaces enables transmission and exposure of high viral loads of COVID-19. As we are bombarded with disinformation and random false calls for some “freedoms” as if we live with no restrictions on our behavior at all, it is easy to be distracted by the extremely vocal inanity. Please do not succumb to this dangerous rhetoric.

Current community positivity and case rates in Orange County are at an all time high, as is easily seen in the OC Public Health daily reports. Our hospitals are overwhelmed and beyond capacity. As we CAN (and have been) teaching remotely with a now well-established distance learning structure, there is no reason to risk the lives and health of our teachers and families by insisting on in-person instruction. I am personally appalled that the district (in my name) is forcing teachers to work in-person at great risk to their lives and health. My FSD student is currently in junior high and in the last week before the break, 3 of her teachers were in quarantine. Last week at least one of her teachers was out with COVID. She is worried about her teachers and friends, and rightly so.

I feel it is unconscionable to force teachers into harms way under the current climate.

Thank you for your consideration,

Freddi-Jo Eisenberg Bruschke, PhD
FSD Parent, Area 5

Comment 13:

Dear Board of Trustees, Happy New Year to you. My 6th grade student at Sunset Lane is very much looking forward to getting back to school in-person with his teacher next week. Please do not deviate from your current schedule; get the kids back in school in person. Zoom education is a poor substitute to in-person education. Even our Governor is now focused, it seems, on getting kids back on campus and has proposed additional funding for districts who get kids back to in-person education. Your District Staff and School Site Staff have done amazing work to keep people on campus and in classrooms safe. Trust that they have done their job well.

All of us have stayed home on zoom, now for the second week, to slow the holiday spread. It's time to get students back to school on campus and in-person.

And for those classes who have few students wanting to be in the classroom, those students should be able to be in the classroom with their teacher five days a week-there is no COVID related reason to limit their access to their teacher.

Do what you promised you would...go back to in-person learning as of next week.

Sincerely, Jennifer Fitzgerald, Sunset Lane Parent

Comment 14:

Please protect our teachers by continuing only distance learning and no in person learning until our county is out of the purple tier.

Thank you,
Ashira Fox

Comment 15:

Please consider keeping the hybrid school model open as my girls have done very well educationally, mentally & physically at Golden Hill elementary since the school opened back up in October. There has been a noticeable difference in their eagerness to learn, overall attitude & mental state based on zooming from home all of last week. My husband and I work full time outside of the home and they are currently being watched by their grandmother. The lack of interaction with other children on a daily basis truly affects their overall well being. We have not had any health issues or concerns since they started attending school in person last October. They also were going to Kids Connection at the Presbyterian church in person every day to zoom since last August, prior to school opening up. I feel my girls have been very fortunate that we were able to provide the care at Kids Connection as they had interactions with other students on a daily basis. I truly feel that not opening up the schools will show a dramatic change in all of our children across all grades.

Sincerely,

Chrissy Medina

Comment 16:

As this is the last board meeting before we return to the Hybrid model of in-person teaching, I feel compelled to once again request that the board and cabinet reconsider sending the teachers and students back into the classrooms. I humbly and respectfully ask you to weigh the pros and cons of this action, considering the alarming rise of COVID cases in our county, lack of hospital beds, and the death toll this virus has caused, notably among communities of color.

Please allow teachers to teach from home, safely, without the risk of contracting COVID, just for a few more weeks, and then reevaluate the situation. Let's encourage the students to stay home too, unless in extreme situations, to keep *them* safe.

Vaccinations are coming, numbers will hopefully decrease after the holiday spike, and we can return to school with the confidence that our students and staff will remain healthy. Let's be *that* district--the Fullerton School District we've always been. The FSD

where students come first, teachers are appreciated and respected, and we all work together for the betterment of the community and the world.

Distance learning is working right now--at least for my grade-level partners, and many of my colleagues at Rolling Hills. Attendance is much higher than during Hybrid, scores are up with formative and summative assessments, and stress levels are lower for staff and students.

Teaching one full class at a time allows teachers to focus on all the students, not dividing their time between in-person students and online students. Technical issues have decreased. My students are producing more. And those students who struggle can get the attention they need because transitions between lessons are smoother, easier, and give us more time in the day. With hybrid teaching, everything takes longer. Timing is challenging. Someone is always losing out.

Please reconsider the plans in place for next week. The health of the FSD students, their families, the teachers, staff, administration, and all of our families is truly at risk.

Your Partner in Education- Jody M. Caruso Dyer, M. Ed.

Comment 17:

I'm writing to you today as a parent and as a teacher to express my concerns about Fullerton's plan to continue in-person learning. Given the purple tier status of Orange County, and the new, highly-transmissible strain of Covid that has been identified, I cannot fathom why any school district would offer in-person instruction at this time. You are risking the health and lives of your students and staff, lives which should be more important than any educational "benchmarks" that kids may or may not reach during this time. This is unacceptable.

As a parent, I understand that distance learning is hard. It IS hard. It takes time to check in on your kids to see what they're doing in class, to make sure they're doing their work, to keep them motivated. My 10 year old is fortunate enough to have teachers who know her and who have really gone the distance to make distance learning work. Even so, it's hard for her. My 13 year old has learning disabilities that make in-person school difficult and distance learning even more difficult. They struggle with anxiety and depression and being separated from their friends is painful. But we've still made the decision as a family to have them both at home and learning remotely. Why? Because the risks outweigh the advantages. Yes, they could be getting the same instruction on campus, but they would still be denied the personal contact they crave AND be at a higher risk for getting sick.

As a teacher, I understand the difficulties. I've been teaching from my living room in a makeshift "office" since last March and, very likely will be through the end of this school year. If there are teachers in the Fullerton district who are struggling to teach remotely, then they should be advised how to do better or be held accountable. Asking your teachers to teach online and in person, in addition to putting them in an environment that puts their health at risk is ridiculous. Your teachers and staff deserve

better. They are highly educated, trained professionals who are already being asked to do their jobs in an unprecedented situation. We teachers put up with a lot of criticism from people who could never do our jobs because we know how hard we work and how important our work is to the community.

The Fullerton School District needs to protect its students and staff. The county has reverted to the purple tier and COVID cases are steadily increasing. The numbers that made us close in March seem so small compared to today's statistics. But now is the time to return to campus? For what? For the optics? How can having students report to campus *even one day a week* justify risking their lives, the lives of their families, and the lives of the staff? How will a couple of days a week on campus really help working parents? It's an awful situation, but having kids on campuses is not the solution.

Trust your teachers and staff. They want what's best for your students. They want to do the job of educating and caring for your kids. Don't make them risk their lives to do it.

Sincerely,
Kris Eisenacher
Parent, Rolling Hills and Ladera Vista

Comment 18:

From a concerned teacher...With the numbers higher than ever right now, I do not feel comfortable going back into my classroom on Tuesday. My school is literally up the street from St. Jude's hospital where the hallways and parking lots are filled with patients. I know this because I am friends with many doctors there. My ill mother is on lock down at her Board and Care facility in Fullerton because of these numbers. Another family member has not been able to leave the Sunnycrest Assisted Living since last March. I've been stopping by her window to wave to her for the last 10 months now. My husband, who works in healthcare said the Long Beach hospital, Mission Hospital and many others had to purchase portable morgues because of the amount of people dying because their hospital morgues are full.

As of today, January 12th our covid dashboard says there are 57 employees in our district with an active case of Covid. Although an email stated that 61 employees actually tested positive last week. This leads me to believe that our dashboard is not showing all of our numbers accurately. In the fall, it was stated that the schools or district will only close if 5% of their staff are positive. I question that the 2348 employees listed on our dashboard are indeed the ones that are working at the school sites. I know that some of the employees at my school are actually working from home because they were approved due to health risks. I also know of various other classified staff that work in the district, do so in an individual office where they are not at the same risk as I am. I teach young children, whose masks do not fit their face and cannot help themselves but touch their friends and walk closer than 6 feet. I also teach among other staff and families that don't truly believe that Covid is a risk, and they do not social distance or wear masks outside of school. I see their social media posts with pictures of being out and about maskless, like everything is normal and that we are not in a pandemic. Yet I am mandated to teach next to them.

This is unacceptable to expect us teachers and school staff to go back to work in person right now. I just received an email from our FSD cabinet that it is estimated that teachers who are in group 1B will possibly get vaccinations at the end of January or early February. I will happily come back to the physical classroom after our vaccination. Until then I would like to continue teaching from the safety of my home where I have been quarantining with my children since December 17th. I know many teachers feel the same as me. What are the other options right now for us?

It has been mentioned numerous times that the mental health of the children is too big of a concern to stay closed. I question that that's the reason. Why has LA been closed this entire time? Why did other Orange County districts close their doors after the Thanksgiving break and still remain closed now? If mental health was truly the primary concern, why hasn't our district provided more check ins and mental health care for our families and our staff? I am more concerned for my community and the physical health of our families. We can fight covid by staying home.

Covid is NOT under control right now in Orange County. It's too soon to open back up. If I can't sit outside and drink a coffee on a restaurant patio because it is deemed unsafe, how can I work on a site with hundreds of students and staff on a given day? I do not want to take a personal leave because I love my students and love teaching. But what other option do I have? You told me I would be safe teaching at my school site, and I don't feel that way. 2 classrooms at my school had to quarantine right before Winter Break. One of those positive cases supervised my students every day for 10 minutes of their recess. But since it was 10 minutes and not 15 minutes, we were safe and not asked to quarantine, or even notified that there may have been a potential risk. There will be more positive cases if we open next week. Now is not the time. Before you open, I suggest sending a survey to ALL FSD parents with 1 basic question... Would your family be able to continue distance learning until our staff and at risk community members have completed their rounds of vaccinations, estimated to be completed in February? Yes or No. Be transparent and put the ongoing poll results on your website and we can see for ourselves. Over 80% of your staff have already told you that they want to stay closed too and stick with distance learning until it is safer. We can remain closed, it's your choice.

Blair Campbell, FSD Teacher

Comment 19:

I am writing to you today to express my concern that we are scheduled to go back to in-person learning on January 19th. Everyday I take the time to read the news trying to keep up with the ever changing information concerning the Covid 19 pandemic. Since Thanksgiving I have watched the covid numbers explode and keep wondering, "how bad does it need to get before someone at the district level sounds the alarm?" As of Monday, January 11th, the health officials are stating that they have not yet seen the peak of this most recent holiday surge. Hospitals are struggling to keep up and now have begun rationing care.

Asking your employees, who have diligently been working since last March to recreate what education looks like, to put their health on the line to teach in-person when there is a surge in the community is unfair. At this point, what happens if we get sick? Really sick? Like being in the hospital sick? With both a shortage of beds and staffing, the hospitals are begging people to stay home. As I drive by the hospital 1/2 mile from our school, they are erecting a tent city in the parking lot to deal with shortages of care they can provide.

An article in the LA Times last week stated that many schools in LA had to close because 1 in 3 kids are testing positive. As of today, our dashboard shows zero kids as currently having covid. I am confused by that as I personally know some students who have recently tested positive for covid. As a district if we are going to use the information on this dashboard to make decisions that affect students and staff, the information on it must be accurate.

For the safety and sanity of your employees, I am asking you to consider holding off in-person school until we see the Covid numbers wane in our community. As teachers and staff, we have worked tirelessly over the past year for the kids in our community to provide a quality education. Staying virtual for a short time to get through this surge, in order to ensure the health and safety of the staff seems not only responsible, but necessary.

Please act to delay in-person learning before you are looking in the rearview mirror wishing you had made a different decision.

Yvette Garza- Kindergarten Aide

Comment 20:

I implore you to take action to keep all students and staff to stay home in the coming weeks until the positive COVID numbers in our area put us back in the red tier. I understand the need for some students to stay in school. There must be a reasonable compromise that would allow these students to attend school in a safe manner while still allowing the remainder of the students and staff to remain teaching and learning from the safety of their own home. One compromise could potentially be continuing with the model of this current week. Students who need to be in the classroom are able to do so.

Many teachers and parents are very frightened, not only of COVID, but also that there are no more available beds in our hospitals for any other type of illness or emergency situations. It is irresponsible to contribute to this disaster further and I believe that FSD should make the important decision to help protect the most vulnerable in our community.

One last crucial point is in reference to the FSD COVID dashboard. It currently shows 57 staff are infected and 0 students are infected. It is highly unlikely that the student

case number is accurate given the rate of community spread. We do know that 40% of children with COVID are asymptomatic. We also know that a person is dying every 8 seconds in L.A. County. Please make the decision to help save vulnerable lives in this community right now. Be an advocate for the teachers, parents and community members who are rightfully alarmed by the current COVID cases and are pleading for your help.

Thank you for your consideration,

Marisa DiLuigi Sonny
Beechwood School Teacher

Comment 21:

Being a teacher for 39 years I know first hand how important it is for children of ALL ages to be IN the classroom where they have hands on experiences, personal contact and feedback from their teacher/s and in person encouragement, inspiration and motivation. They also need the socializing with friends and the physical activities of sports to maintain a healthy mind and body. Socializing and Sports encourages the development of positive attitudes towards life and education. I am recommending that you open schools and sports to ALL children BUT especially on the High School level. Our children, for their physical and mental health, require this to happen ASAP.

Respectfully
Cindy von Coelln

Comment 22:

Esteemed Board members and FSD Cabinet,

I am privileged to be part of the FSD family. For 20 years I have taught alongside truly exceptional colleagues at multiple school sites, and my two children currently attend FSD schools. Their teachers are world class. What they are doing in these challenging times is amazing. In short, we are proud members of this community. However, we are very concerned. Being in-person triples the risk for our family. My family and I spent much of the break in quarantine because we were all separately exposed at our school sites. None of those cases ever made it to the dashboard.

Now Covid numbers in OC are bad and getting worse. Our hospitals are rationing care. I know that sounds like hyperbole, but permit me to share a brief personal anecdote. Over the break a dear family friend suffered a stroke. She is 86. Paramedics arrived, and informed the family that every nearby hospital had a long wait. It took over 2 hours to off-load the ambulance. Though she needed to be monitored, the hospital didn't have the resources, and she was sent home, only to return hours later after a second episode where she had to wait again. Another dear friend is a veteran ICU nurse. She reports that they are overrun. Things are worse than what is reported. This is the reality of our situation. We are a community in crisis.

But there is more to this reality. Teachers in Fullerton School District CAN teach remotely. We are committed to student learning. We have the resources and we are constantly learning to do it better. Students in Fullerton School District CAN learn remotely. This is borne out by the actual numbers. Yesterday our campus housed just 15 students on a campus built for 1000. Before going to winter break we had 100-120 students on campus, which is just over 10% of our student population. This means an enormous outlay of resources - PPE, sanitation, technology, substitute teachers, even just HVAC and electricity - all for less instruction time and more risk. The numbers just don't add up. 80-90% of families are staying home. It makes sense that we all should be.

We all realize that this is not an ideal solution. I'm sure you will hear stories tonight about families who are happy with hybrid learning and who urge the opposite. But these are not ideal times. We are faced with hard choices based not on ideals, but on reality. On survival. We are surviving now. If we can continue to survive, then we will be ready to thrive when we come out the other side of this.

Our governor has given incentives for schools to reopen in Mid-February - let's take him up on it! I implore you to get our faculty and staff vaccinated, and to delay our return to in-person instruction when OC numbers are lower, teachers and staff are safe - in short - when it makes sense to do so.

Sincerely,
Andrea Calvo
Ladera Vista School of the Arts

Comment 23:

Your science is not enough proof to keep any schools closed!
Open schools now!!

C. Troeller

Comment 24:

Thank you for your ongoing support for on campus learning and returning to on campus instruction after winter break, it is vital to the success of our students and educational equity for all district students. The Fullerton School District has done an amazing job of providing a safe on-campus option for our students and half of all of the district's students have already chosen to come back to campus. Personally I have seen firsthand the extent to which the district acted, and acted quickly, to comply and exceed the CDC guidelines for safety and infection prevention. As an owner of an essential health care support business for infection control, I have had the opportunity to help advise on universal infection control protocols for the district and have seen the extensive level of commitment to keep students, teachers, and all staff safe. Both my husband and I are essential business owners and workers, and are not able to stay

home to assist our son on distance learning, and there are many families like us in the district. We have chosen on-campus 5 day learning option and am so grateful my student gets to learn in person and with his peers; this is vital to his success and can see a marked improvement since his return to the classroom.

The commitment to social distancing, mask wearing and infection prevention measures have resulted in a very low positivity rate among the Fullerton School District which is less than 1% and the vast majority of those positive cases actually come from students and teachers who are AT HOME on distance learning; they do not come from those on campus.

It is with deep appreciation that I have seen the commitment for on campus instruction from Dr. Pletka, Assistant Superintendents, Board of Trustees, District Administrators, Teachers, and Staff who have ensured a safe environment on our campuses. By keeping our campuses open, this shows a commitment to educational equity for all students regardless of the learning option they choose. Dr. Pletka and the District have done an amazing job pivoting quickly to an online learning platform in the spring, which was a herculean effort and is a testament to the technological and educational strength of our district.

Please continue your strong support of in-person education in Fullerton. On campus in person instruction for my student is vital to him achieving academic success, and will be a deciding factor in remaining with the Fullerton School District. The possibility of not reopening on campus instruction this late in the school year makes it nearly impossible for parents to find alternative placements for their students, as many parents have already abandoned districts that failed to ever reopen this school year. My family is asking you to stand up for continuing in-person education in Fullerton for the benefit of all our students.

In Appreciation,
Lisa and Dan Wozab

Comment 25:

I am a mother of a (13) year son who attends Parks Junior High. The Hybrid option was a breath of fresh air for our family this Fall. It offered hope and the ability to break the daily grind of staring at a computer screen, jumping from Zoom meeting to Zoom meeting and the constant struggle of feeling isolated and unseen. Heading back into the classroom offered the ability to interact in person with their teachers, build a comradery that is difficult to achieve over Zoom. It offered the ability to have some type of resemblance of a normal junior high school experience COVID style.

I found as a parent, getting dressed, up and out of the house offered a renewed commitment to learning and the new normal that social interaction offers. With the news in December that January would start off on Zoom for two weeks, was a difficult pill to swallow. We did our best to support this decision with our kids and explained the

importance of proactive safety assuming individuals traveled, etc and zooming in early January would allow the chance to keeping case numbers lower within the school community.

The idea that the Zooming schedule could be extended past Friday 1/15/21 is beyond disappointing. These kids NEED to be in a classroom. For those families that support a Hybrid model need the opportunity to offer this to their kids ASAP. The idea that this could be delayed further is heart breaking. From the health information published cases are not substantiated that children are bringing a risk to their Junior Highs and Elementary schools. The School district has done an amazing job putting safety first in both the classrooms and campus wide. As a parent I feel safe sending my student to school with the safety measures in place and the constant communication we receive. Please, please keep the schools open!! Those children who attend a hybrid model need a place to identify with others, actively have the ability to learn and most important start 2021 with a hopeful perspective that with safety in place, they will have the opportunity to continue their ability to learn in an in-person model without the fear of start and stop.

Thank you for your time.

Warm regards,
Troi Helmer

Comment 26:

The Parents Voice USA urges the immediate reopening of the Fullerton schools.

The Parents' Voice USA has been serving families in the Fullerton school district since 2009, and we speak for many parents in our district in our urgent request that you reopen schools.

We realize the difficult decisions that you face on a day-to-day basis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. However parents know that the return of their children to the classroom in a safe and orderly manner is critical.

Online learning has proved to be inadequate in the advancement of our students' education, as well as the mental health of both our students and their families. Thus, we request the safe reopening of our schools, without delay.

Sincerely,
MJ Noor,
Founder and CEO, The Parents' Voice USA

Comment 27:

Please keep the entire school district open.

Connie Sim

Comment 28:

We need our schools to be open. This is detrimental to our children's health both mental and physical. I am sure that we can open up schools with safety measures. Thank you

Sincerely,
Moe Khooban

Comment 29:

I am writing today to urge you to consider continuing distance learning as long as our county is in the purple tier. Please do this to keep our students and families safe while infection rates soar following holiday gatherings. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Meagan Schubert

Comment 30:

I am concerned for the safety of our students, teachers, and staff. As long as our county is in the purple tier, in person learning is not safe. The infection rate is surging due to holiday gatherings and now more protests. Please protect our communities until the infection rates drop and we are out of the purple tier.

Thank you,
Robert Schubert

Comment 31:

Please open schools
You are harming the children you pretend to be protecting
Evelyn Nahman

Comment 32:

We are Fullerton Residents and would like to see the schools re-open. If needed use Guidelines, but children need to be at school in person.

Sincerely,
William and Barbara Kummert

Comment 33:

Please open our Fullerton schools now.
Mona Piraino

Comment 34:

Please reopen the schools.

Nick Feghali

Comment 35:

We desperately need our children to be in school. Please hear my request.

Your consideration in this matter is VERY IMPORTANT FOR OUR CHILDREN.

Thank you.

Claire Grossman