

January 16, 2021

Public Comments received by 9:00 a.m. on January 16, 2021

**Comment 1:**

To Whom it May Concern,

I do hope we reopen for in person instruction. My daughter is in 6th grade and misses her teachers, her friends and her school. She wants to go back Tuesday.

**Marina Allensworth**

**Comment 2:**

Please reopen our schools. Kids do not learn well online and the lack of social interaction is leading to all kinds of other problems like depression and drug use. As a parent I urge you to allow parents to assume the risk of their kids and not try to decide for us what is in the best interest of our children.

Thank you for your consideration!

Joan Wagner

**Comment 3:**

I am writing to urge you to bring in experts on integrating racial equity into our school's education rather than have that work fall to lay community members who cannot be expected to know how best to do that work. Especially in light of recent events, we must take action to raise awareness and racial equity education in our schools.

I recently saw a presentation by Alison Dover that was perfect for children and adults. I myself changed how I run meetings as a result. Mrs. Dover was recently named Professor of the Year by the Anaheim School District and has been nominated at the state-level in recognition of her statewide efforts. Minimally, she is a local, willing resource who could also recommend other resources.

Finally, PLEASE continue with the distance learning as COVID numbers continue to spike.

Thank you,  
Marcia Taborga, Ph.D.

**Comment 4:**

There is absolutely no medical health reason to continue to keep children out of the classroom! Stop politicizing education and short changing our kids by needlessly keeping schools closed. Several states never closed down and their children are in school. Stop hurting our kids and open the schools.

Thanks for your support and courage in doing the right thing.

**Frank Codispoti**

**Comment 5:**

Please open the schools. Our students need to be back at school.

Sincerely

Marilyn Harris

Community Member

**Comment 6:**

Please open the schools to in person instruction for those parents wanting their children to attend. In the long run, most students will benefit. For those parents not willing to send their children, they should be forgiven truancy for the time being.

Walt Rountree

The Parents Voice USA

**Comment 7:**

I wanted to express some concerns about returning to in person learning for the Fullerton School District. At this time Orange County is experiencing a deathly surge from COVID-19. With this surge it seems reckless to return to in person learning and, additionally, would be a drain on the district's resources. As we know many of our own staff in FSD have tested positive and this is only going to increase as students come back to campus. This means more subs, more quarantines, and more risk for our families. Although I am anxious to get students back in person, as it is much more fulfilling as a teacher, with the vaccine so close, it seems more responsible and better for the district's resources to stay distance learning until the vaccine has been administered to the teachers that wish to receive it. I want to recognize that this is a very tough scenario for the board and district as you face concerns about student welfare and enrollment, however, I believe staying distance until a vaccine is available is the safest and most efficient option. Thank you for your time and hearing my concerns!

Most sincerely,

Jill Riley

LVA Teacher

**Comment 8:**

I would like to ask for schools to be opened. This is effecting children's mental well-being. Children are frustrated staying at home and need day to day interaction with their own . Thank you for considering this.

Sincerely,

Yael Khooban

**Comment 9:**

The kids need to be in school. They need to inter act with other kids. The country need to open up and be normal. Over 99 per. of recovery rate. The country most cannot spell,

add, or communicate. American school is 27 rated in the world and the kids are  
dumber by the day. Where is the normal flu #? The country needs to be back to normal.  
Van Mai

**Comment 10:**

Our children are suffering. We are doing far more harm by forcing remote learning on  
our children. This isolation can lead to anxiety, depression and many other mental  
health issues.

Please open up all schools and allow students to return full

Margo Thorne

**Comment 11:**

Please reopen the schools.

Emilia Lugay

**Comment 12:**

Our children desperately need to be back in school. Please open our schools!

Victoria Morse

**Comment 13:**

Dear Fullerton school board,

For the mental health of our children do not shut down in person school. Too many young  
children are depressed having suicidal thoughts. Our children need to play and socialize  
with their friends. I know the teachers and the school board have their students  
wellbeing as their first priority.

God Bless,  
Antoinette Brown  
Fullerton resident

**Comment 14:**

Please allow schools to open and keep them open.

Connie Sim

**Comment 15:**

I am a parent and this board really needs to do the right thing for the children. The  
children need to go back to school. The seniors need to have a better year than last  
year. Vaccines are in place. The young are not in danger. Please stop making  
everything political and do something for the children.

If teachers have preexisting conditions or problems they can do distance, otherwise get  
back to work! They're lucky to have a job and not be like the millions of Americans who  
have lost theirs due to China virus and democrat malfeasance.!

Please do the right thing.

Jessica Rutan

**Comment 16:**

PLEASE REOPEN SCHOOLS FOR OUR STUDENTS!!! THEY NEED TO LEARN WITH THEIR PEERS AND GET A REAL EDUCATION!

Stephanie Ramirez

**Comment 17:**

It has been brought to my attention that there is still a debate on whether to open schools back up. I'm shocked that this is even a discussion. Not only is the education of our children suffering by remaining at home but also their mental condition is suffering. My boys have always been happy healthy thriving kids and this has literally sent them into a dark mental place. Depression is setting in, especially for one of my children and it is tearing me apart watching this go on. Safety measures should be in place but these kids need to be in the classrooms. Protecting these children and their future should be paramount to anything else. Enough is enough!!!!

Concerned parent,

Lynsey Bird

**Comment 18:**

I am writing to ask that you open the schools for the district's children. There are ways to do it in a safe manner that will address the fears of the staff and teachers, while allowing our children some semblance of normalcy.

Thank you,

Susan Gapinski

**Comment 19:**

Kids need to be attending school in person. This at home distance learning needs to stop. It is doing more damage than good. The data shows that transmission of the COVID-19 virus in schools is highly unlikely. Distance learning is causing children to experience extremely high numbers of depression cases. Distance learning is allowing child abuse to go unchecked. Teachers are the number one reporters of child abuse, and separating teachers and students is taking that away. Children are not receiving the education they deserve during distance learning. With the right safety protocols in place, in person school can be safely executed.

Thanks – Jacob Viramontes

**Comment 20:**

As a parent of 4 school aged children in our district, I want to thank you for putting the kids needs first in trying your best to keep schools open for those that are comfortable in having their kids there. The need for them to be in-person is crucial for the emotional, mental and physical health. I realize some parents and teachers are scared of what's going on, but there are SO many other risk factors that are more harmful to these poor students kept at home.

Where is the strong evidence that the kids are getting sick (not just exposed) from being at school? Where is the evidence that the teachers are getting "exposed/sick" FROM

the children? If the proper PPE and social distance is being practiced, everyone should be ok. If teachers feel at risk, get the vaccine, wear the proper PPE, and 99% they will be ok. The teachers that I know that are getting exposed/sick have been from other adults or gatherings.

These are scary times and no one wants this, but it's time to remember these kids need to be in school. As a dental hygienist and in a very high risk career, I never ever thought I'd have to work in this situation, but I wear my PPE and pray for the best. I truly feel teachers can, too. They are the MOST essential workers out there for our future generation of this society. I am extremely grateful for the district, so far, helping in keeping the schools open here in Fullerton. I know the unions are against it, but I, along with all my friends with children in the district, are extremely grateful for your fight in helping our children. So many kids are suffering on all levels and it needs to be addressed. Start by opening up schools. Kids come first!!!! Again, PLEASE continue to fight for the children. They need us. They have no voice and it's unfortunate the union and some teachers don't look at their well-being and only looking at themselves. No one wishes any of this on anyone, but this isn't going away anytime soon, and it's time to live, protect with PPE like we have and do our best. Thank you for your time and service,

Sara Viramontes

**Comment 21:**

Hello my child attends Rolling Hills Elementary. She has returned back full time and is so happy to be back on campus. The staff is wonderful. We feel it is best for the kids to be back for learning and socializing. Please consider keeping schools open.

Thank you  
Jenn Hays

**Comment 22:**

Please keep schools open for our children.

My daughter and son attend Rolling Hills Elementary and have been back full time since the school re-opened. It has made such a difference in their mental health being back in class. They absolutely love going to school again and would be very disappointed if the schools shut down.

It is not healthy for children to be shut-in all day staring at screens. All children need social interaction from teachers, classmates and friends.

I urge you to keep the schools open. Let parents make the choice if they want to have their children attend in-person or on-line.

Sincerely,

Stacey Botimer

**Comment 23:**

Please allow elementary students to attend school in person. Open the schools.

Walt Rountree

**Comment 24:**

Our children need to be back in school now. Open the schools for the children's' good.

Thank you.

Melissa Stevens

**Comment 25:**

I am writing you to please do everything in your power to re-open the schools!

Children and families are suffering, you are hurting the children more than you are helping by keeping the schools closed. You must open the schools immediately!

Sincerely,  
Sergia Sanchez

**Comment 26:**

I was informed that there is a strong desire among teachers and the teacher's union to continue with remote learning. THIS IS A MISTAKE. OUR CHILDREN OUR SUFFERING! They are suffering scholastically, psychologically, and emotionally.

As a parent of two children in the FSD, I can personally attest that the quality of education that these children are receiving has declined significantly as compared to before the kids were sent home last March (10 months ago). This is not a fault of the individual teachers but by the nature of the situation. Why do the teachers and the union want kids to stay at home?

We have also noticed a decline in happiness and enthusiasm with our children. They used to love to go to school! Now, when learning from the confined walls of their bedrooms, staring at a small screen, with constant talking going on while they try to do their work, they beg, each morning, to not have to go to school. It is very sad and I'm afraid, will have lasting consequences.  
Please OPEN OUR SCHOOLS.

Sincerely,  
Doug Botimer

**Comment 27:**

Good afternoon,

As a concerned parent for my children's well-being, I need you to realize that children that stay at home and don't have socialization with their peers, both mentally and

physically are in danger. They become individuals that are depressed and obese due to lack of socialization and activity. Please be advise that these children are in great danger. You can open the schools with safety measures in place. Thank you  
Sincerely Moe Khooban

**Comment 28:**

I hope you will consider not changing the current plan to open schools to an in-class learning option on Tuesday, January 19th. I'm a Golden Hill Elementary alumnus and parent, and have struggled through working from home while helping my special needs first grader do distance learning. She's been doing her best, but is struggling, and has been really looking forward to being in-class with her wonderful teacher. The district and Golden Hill staff have done an excellent job of adapting and adopting effective safety measures to keep in-class teaching safe, and I would ask that they continue to do so. Please continue the plan to put students' needs first and open the schools to an in-class learning option.

Erik When

**Comment 29:**

My understanding is this meeting will discuss whether students return next week or in February. I'm a parent of three elementary students and one junior high. I think it's important for our children return to school. The district has done an excellent job safeguarding the children and staff and there is no evidence that covid spreads in an environmental that has taken such precautions.

Thank you,  
Lisa Wise

**Comment 30:**

I wish to convey my support for extending virtual learning for FSD students through January 29th and urge you to vote in favor of approving the MOU. I am the parent of an FSD student at Rolling Hills and am a Champion for Learning. I know how difficult these times are for everyone, especially our families and students with special needs or who have been disproportionately affected by impacts of the pandemic. However, due to the vast community spread of Covid 19, out of concern for our staff, and out of concern for our overwhelmed hospital staff, I believe it is in the best interests of the community to keep learning virtual, at least until community spread is under better control.

Stay well,  
Trinitee Manuel

**Comment 31:**

I understand that you and your colleagues are holding a meeting on Sat 1/16. In this meeting you are going to discuss the prospect of denying our children access to regular classroom learning. I strongly urge you to follow through with the commitment you made before the winter break and welcome our children back to school.

By denying access to this community right, you and your board have inflicted immeasurable emotional and psychological damage to our children. I completely understand that you and your board may not see things this way, and you have other priorities and interests to protect. As a parent, I have a first hand view of the pain and suffering this is causing. I see my own children frustrated with isolation and struggling with unfamiliar and inconsistent protocols of "distance learning". I see my children's teachers struggle in keeping order and carrying out routine curriculums that they've mastered over the years. I see the principal and leadership at Golden Hill struggle to provide coherent answers, direction or hope of any kind.

As a lifelong member of this community I am saddened by the Fullerton School Districts actions. Since the beginning of the pandemic, thousands of essential workers have selflessly and honorably staffed our hospitals, grocery stores, retail outlets, police stations...etc. Heroes that assess their own personal risk and make independent decisions to honor themselves, their families, their professions and their community. As Americans we all have the right to evaluate our own risk and make responsible, lawful decisions. We have the choice to work, we have the choice to isolate. As parents we make these decisions for our children. However, if you restrict access to a standard education you deny us of this basic right. I respectfully request that you join the rest of our nation and return this choice to us. Return this choice to your schools and their staff. Our community, and all of it's families deserve a choice.

Respectfully,

Chris Zeiler  
Fullerton, CA

**Comment 32:**

f teachers have the option to stay home while kids return to school next week, does the district have enough subs to cover those classes? And if not, will Classified staff be required to cover classes? Why is it okay to require Classified staff to work but not teachers?

And why are teachers being offered a stipend that is three to six times what is being proposed for Classified who do not have the option to work from home?

Melisa

**Comment 33:**

As a parent and classified staff member in the Fullerton school district I am respectfully asking you to reconsider requiring classified staff to work from campus. I do not feel comfortable working on campus or sending my children to "child care" like we had this past week during a "Stay at Home Order". We are in purple tier and hospitals are overwhelmed. We need to be home right now.

I understand you will not make everyone happy with your decision today so I urge you to make the SAFEST choice.

Kristen Chambers



**Comment 34:**

I am writing as a very concerned parent regarding the board meeting on January 16th to discuss the possibility of not allowing my children to return to school next week. The pain and suffering that these kids have had to endure has gone on too long and they need to get back in school. Period!!! The physiological and mental health of my children is extremely important to me and should be considered when making choices that affects their daily lives.

There was not one day this week that neither of my children were in tears during school hours. The pain and frustration on both ends (students and teachers) is overwhelming. It saddens me that our community and our board leaders would allow this to happen.

Other schools in our county (Placentia/Yorba Linda) went back to school immediately following break and they have continued with the protocols and procedures put in place to keep our kids safe. There is no reason that the Fullerton School District can not do the same. It should be our choice as parents, who make the decisions for our children, if we want to send our children to school or not! It is our right to send our children to school and to do what we feel best suits them and their physical and mental health!!

Essential workers all across the world have continued to work and provide for those that need it. Grocery stores, police stations, hospitals etc, have honorably remained open to be there for Americans who need them. Our children need our schools and our teachers!!! I hope you do what is right and open schools for our children!

Respectfully,

Leah Zeiler

**Comment 35:**

I am floored at the difference in stipend between on-site classified and certificated. As we saw in the beginning of the pandemic, with increased Distance Learning comes increased load on everyone, particularly the staff members supporting the office and the technology. All technology and curriculum distribution and management is now handled by the office staff for all teachers. I don't believe it is fair to say to classified employees that they are less at risk by giving them a lower stipend. They are in fact at more risk, with more interactions with more guardians and students than any other employee or teacher.

Nate Jones

**Comment 36:**

I was just notified that the school board may be changing its decision to return to hybrid starting next week. Our kids need to be back in class! Teachers are essential workers! We are not having out breaks on campus and everyone is doing a great job keeping our kids safe and healthy. My daughter is struggling a lot, especially being an only child. Her

teacher has commented on how good she is in class, but has problems with her on zoom. How many kids will not be able to pass their current grades if we don't get them back in class? Please, keep our kids in class!!!

Thank you,  
Amber Gill, Parent of a 5th grader

**Comment 37:**

The Board has referenced the Sept. 4, 2020 MOU in their Notice of Special Meeting, however they neither provided a link in the Notice or made it available in the Library. All documents should be made available, including the original MOU and any amendments thus far, prior to the Special Meeting.  
Ami Marston

**Comment 38:**

Our children need to be at school! Don't give in to the pressure of the teachers union. If the teachers don't want to do their jobs, let the teachers find other jobs. We love our teachers, but our children need to be in school. OPEN OUR SCHOOLS!

Regards,  
Doug McKendry

**Comment 39:**

I am writing to suggest that you allow ALL staff to say home while we await lower numbers in our county. I am an FSD long-term substitute teacher and have been a part of the Fullerton School District community for many years. I have always been proud to work for a district that has kept the best interest of all employees in mind...until now. It concerns me that you have chosen to allow teachers to stay home due to rising cases and safety, however are requiring other staff members (including myself) to risk their health and that of their families by being on campus. While I understand that you wish to offer support to students and families in need, the number of students on campus this last week was very minimal. This shows that even parents are willing to keep their students home to protect the safety of the community. Faculty and student safety should be at the top of your priority list and it seems that you are only willing to protect some staff members. Why is my health and well-being not as important when compared to certificated teachers? Is it because I am not backed by a union who is fighting for my safety? Why are we allowed to risk everything to be at schools when the district has reason to keep teachers safer at home? I know many other long-term subs feel the same way. Please consider keeping ALL staff home until February 1, 2021 in order to keep all of our Fullerton community healthy. Do your part.

Sincerely,

A loyal FSD Sub

**Comment 40:**

I am writing with a concern regarding returning to in-person learning too quickly. I am thankful to see that virtual learning will continue until the end of January as Orange County continues to experience a surge in COVID cases. Moreover, I do not think students should be allowed back on campus until the number of new cases and deaths from COVID decrease significantly.

Jaimini Teckchandani

**Comment 41:**

With the load on our local hospitals remaining high, and cases still far above the levels that allowed safer reopening in the fall, it makes sense to extend the virtual learning program for some additional weeks. The vaccine is showing us light at the end of the tunnel, but let's not disregard the current risks.

After Thanksgiving, my child had a COVID exposure in class as students returned. I can only expect a return now, with local case load even higher, would lead to numerous class disruptions and viral spread. Let's do what we can to protect our communities.

I miss the in person support and engagement, but we have already notified my child's school that we plan to keep him in the distance learning program for the rest of this month. Let's give the teachers and staff similar opportunities.

Best,  
Jocelyn Read

**Comment 42:**

In regards to extending distance learning through the end of January, I personally feel that children need to be in school in person for their own mental health. Reason for this is that a majority of Title 1 school students are having difficulty concentrating at home due to the fact that there are younger siblings and multiple families in the same household, thus making it harder for them to concentrate in their school work. While parents are out working in order to continue to provide food and housing for their children many of our Jr High students are being parents to their younger siblings and once again making it difficult to complete and concentrate in school work. Many of these families are basically in survival mode during these hard pandemic times.

Next, what difference will 2 more weeks make for teachers to stay at home teaching? While they are still going on with their life's and possibly are even more susceptible to acquire the virus in a supermarket or a family gathering or even a small outing. If teachers went into the education profession in order to help kids and make a difference, well now is the time to do that and really think about the well being of their students and their social/mental health.

Many students look up to their teachers as role models and many times even create a teacher/student relationship that can possibly last a lifetime. Unfortunately, this can not

be done if distance learning continues. The only way that this will be possible is by continuing to offer in person education with teachers being on campus and having conversations with their students. Many do not have any role models at home or in their surroundings and school is the only place where they are able to create these types of relationships which will make them successful in the future.

Currently we may not have a concrete statistics as to what are the major effects of this pandemic and distance learning in students, but I can tell you that just by observing and comparing pre-covid to post-covid children are in desperate need of peer interaction, they are in need of role model interactions, they are in need of mentors interaction. Children need to be in school in person, we have the privilege of being able to teach Hybrid then let's take advantage of that and make a difference in these children's lives.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to relate my opinion and observations.

Edelicia Lara- FSD Classified Employee

**Comment 43:**

Please open our public schools. Our children are the future and deserve a QUALITY education!

Sincerely,  
Claire Grossman

**Comment 44:**

I am concerned about two things.

1. Why wasn't this handled Tuesday? By calling a Special Meeting and doing it on a holiday weekend Saturday, the message is clear that neither the union nor the District is very concerned with the potential impact to families.
2. As I understand the MOU, teachers who choose to work at school are given a stipend of 300 dollars a week. Is this hazard pay? I clearly don't understand why this is okay. Is being with their students considered a hazardous work environment? Where is the science on this? As a veteran I understand hazardous duty pay. This situation is not warranted.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Harris  
Community Member

**Comment 45:**

I am writing to express my confusion and concerns as to why we (the Classified staff) have been required to report to in-person teaching while Certificates staff have not? I don't understand why we are being required to be at risk of contracting the virus, when Certificated staff is not. I am very concerned about the number of staff in our school district that have tested positive for COVID along with parents and students that are contracting the virus.

Why can't we all, as a staff, be treated equally? I ask that you consider putting us ALL back to DL until all teachers and staff have received the vaccination so we are not being put at further risk of contracting the virus?  
Elizabeth Clasen

**Comment 46:**

I am in support of reopening the schools for our children.  
Michelle Purtee

**Comment 47:**

I respectfully ask you to please consider RE-OPENING our schools! The children have been out of school for almost a full year now! This is not healthy for them or their families. Children learn so much by being with their peers and having social relationships with friends and teachers.

We as parents and educators need to help give them this chance to learn in a healthy environment. They are our future!

Please thoughtfully consider Re-Opening as soon as possible.

Thank you.  
April Jorgensen

**Comment 48:**

“Harvard expert blaming a stew of mistrust, politicization, and fear for a pandemic response by schools that has seriously hampered learning for all but a privileged few and left an estimated 20 percent of remote learners receiving virtually no schooling at all.”

“Yes, they’re doing worse. We have really clear evidence of that,” Meira Levinson, a professor of education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, said of student performance in remote classrooms. “They [students] are not showing up as much; they’re not showing up as consistently; they are not doing as much when they do show up; and they’re not engaging in the same ways.”

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/01/pandemic-puts-k-12-education-on-downward-slide/>

MJ Noor

**Comment 49:**

Why are the schools open? The schools should be completely closed. All students should be on distant learning. LAUSD and Santa Ana school district all distant learning. There have been cases of students that have been tested positive for Covid-19. Fullerton is next to Los Angeles County, there numbers are very high. You have multiple family members living together, which makes the transmission very high. There are

tents set up at St Jude hospital. I worked in health care on the administrative level, one of the department I had interactions with is Infectious Disease physicians. A person can come to the school staff or students and can be asymptomatic.

Sam

**Comment 50:**

I have been informed that the school board will be having an emergency meeting today, the purpose of which I have heard is to vote on a possible indefinite change to virtual-only learning. As this meeting is being held without adequate notice to the public, I see this as a deceptive move by the school district to blindside parents with a decision that will rob families of the choice on how their children should be educated. I am an essential worker and have been going to work every day since this pandemic started in what you might say is "a risk to my life" -- to do my job. The least I would expect of our district is to do the same, and at a minimum provide our children with the opportunity of in-class learning. To do any less is an extreme disservice to children across the city, and especially for those who come from families without the means to provide their children with a dedicated learning space and a supplemental education. I sincerely hope that I have been misinformed about the intention of today's meeting, and that this email is sent without cause. However, if that is the purpose of today's meeting, I implore you to please consider the detriment that this will cause to the families that cannot endure to have their children learn from home, and to not pander to the musings of those who have the means and the privilege to provide their children with a constructive virtual learning environment from home -- the same people who would hypocritically choose to deprive other families of their personal choice on how to have their children educated.

With respect,

Michael Militaru,  
A Concerned Parent

**Comment 51:**

My name is Jessica Ramos and I am a parent of 2 students at Beechwood as well as PTSA exec board member there. We have been a Beechwood family since 2014, when our oldest started Kindergarten and have grown to love and care for the staff and teachers there.

I believe it is extremely irresponsible for the school board to push the teachers AND classified staff back onto campus at this point in time. As a spouse of a healthcare worker who is currently on the frontlines fighting to keep his patients alive in the covid units at Kaiser LA, I see this push as a slap in the face. Here are our healthcare workers working long hours to keep these ill patients alive because they have come down with covid. You are putting everyone at risk by continuing to push for on campus learning.

Virtual learning is not ideal, but it is the safest option that we can use. We have the capability to do it, and the equipment and knowledge of our fine teachers and staff to

continue with this form of learning.

You are not the ones on campus with students so you do not have the right to put their lives in danger. If you claim to care for your FSD teachers and staff you would not be pushing so hard to send them back.

I wish you could spend a day on the covid floor to see the reality of how harmful COVID is, you would not be willing to start on campus learning again if you really knew.

I plead for you not to send our teachers/staff/students back yet.

Jessica Ramos  
Beechwood parent

**Comment 52:**

I am writing on behalf of long term substitutes who currently feel that the district not only doesn't care about their health or wellbeing but also considers them disposable and easy. Since the beginning of the school year, the district has shown how little they care about all the long term substitutes that they have been hiring for additional help.

A lot of the long term substitutes that are being hired by the district are certificated teachers who were unable to obtain a job due to the circumstances of COVID and the district seems to have taken full advantage of these peoples' situations and it is not only disappointing but also unfair for those people.

Teachers have a union and they are given a voice to speak up while long term substitutes are being forced to go back to school despite being afraid and feeling unsafe with COVID cases quickly rising.

Yesterday an email was sent out to teachers, giving them a choice to return as distance learning as it has been extended to continue through Feb 1. The district has even provided them with a stipend that wasn't even offered to long term substitutes despite not even being provided the choice to stay home or volunteer to work from school.

Many long term substitutes that I have spoken to have also said that they are working after hours to create lessons and activities for students without a stipend and without extra pay.

For the district to continue to take advantage of certificated substitutes while not even providing them the same chance to feel safe is a huge disappointment and we would like to see change.

Please consider the situations of long term substitutes and how frustrated, scared, and unappreciated they feel during this time where it is the district that needs us more than we need them.

Long term substitutes are not the only ones being affected by the selfishness of the district, but also friends and families of these subs, especially those who have family members at home who are immunocompromised.

I hope the district and board will come to a decision that is fair and equitable, just as their vision is to provide for their students.

Thank you.

-Ms. Mendez

**Comment 53:**

Attention School Board and Administration.

Please reopen our schools. Our kids are floundering and falling behind. The stress of staying at home and socially isolating from everyone is too much for kids that need to be engaged and learning. That does not happen online. Please open your doors!

Joan Wagner

**Comment 54:**

Our kids are desperate to get back to school. For some it is the social emotional connection, for others it is the desperate need for structure and the support of irreplaceable in-person learning. As a parent my heart aches for my kids who need a return to normalcy, but as a social worker, my heart is breaking for disadvantaged kids who are being further damaged by the inability to access needed resources. The district did an amazing job of providing a proven safe environment for returning to the classroom in the fall. Please continue to allow parents and children this option to return to in-person learning.

Heather Dale, LCSW

**Comment 55:**

Thank you for your ongoing support for in-person learning. The Fullerton School District has done an **amazing** job of providing a safe on-campus option for your students and half of all of the district's students have already chosen to come back to campus. I have chosen on-campus learning and am so grateful my 6th grade daughter gets to learn in person and with her peers; it's made a huge difference for her during this otherwise insane year. My daughter is currently under the 504 plan and does not fully learn through a 100% online platform. In fact, data has shown that she regressed back like many other students an entire year. Fully online teaching will not work for her in a large virtual classroom. I wish it did, as it would make our life easier. We respect easy but this is hard times. I know this is a challenging decision and respect the concerns from the teachers (my brother and sister are ones). Other districts can do whatever they choose, but understand that **you are providing equity in education** for all your students and teachers, both those who want to stay at home and those who want to be and can be on campus.

The safety of our campuses is shown in the small positivity case rate in the Fullerton School District which is **.21%** among students and just **.47%** among staff, as of today (Retrieved 1/16/2021 from FSD COVID-19 Cases Dashboard). Please keep in mind of the 12,532 students. They need to be offered the ability to get taught by their instructor in-person. I applaud your district superintendent and his cabinet who have ensured a safe environment on our campuses. If a covid case has happened at a school site there has not been an increase at the school because of your wonderful efforts. By keeping our campuses open, you show your confidence in your Superintendent and his team around this district and you show respect for the investment of time, energy and money our district has made to ensure everyone has choice in education here in Fullerton. Yes protect your teachers but are they getting it from their students or from their own life



choices and not by the clear and high standards that FSD has maintained on your campuses.

Please continue your strong support of in-person education in Fullerton. We need it for our children. On campus education for our daughter is helping her achieve academic success and mental health now and for her future success. My family is counting on you to stand up for continuing in-person education in Fullerton.

Dr. Debra L. Stout. Parent of 6th Grade Daughter - Acacia

**Comment 56:**

I am a parent of two students in the Fullerton School District. I want to voice my support today for approving the Memorandum of Understanding with the Fullerton Elementary Teachers Association. Not only do I support our district teachers in their efforts to make sure FSD staff remain safe during this pandemic, I believe extending the virtual instruction option until at least February 1, if not longer, is the safest decision for students, their families, and, most significantly, the Fullerton community as a whole.

While I have been pleased with the safety protocols the district has implemented for in-person instruction so far — enough to feel comfortable sending my children to school under the hybrid model — covid-19 has only become more widespread since we opened in October.

Our ICU capacity in Southern California continues to be at 0%. Healthcare professionals and providers are pleading with residents to stay home. According to epidemiologists and infectious disease experts, a new, more contagious strain of the virus is now circulating in our state and could become dominant in as little as two months if we don't get the spread under control. Scientists are still investigating the possibility that this new strain spreads more easily in children. To push forward with reopening schools under these circumstances, even with precautions in place, would be irresponsible. It is no longer just about keeping teachers safe – it is about looking out for our community, respecting the advice of scientists and healthcare professionals, and getting the virus under control so that schools can be opened safely and sooner for all children.

I appreciate that the district provides supervised virtual learning for those students who need it and believe this model should continue. And I once again encourage the board to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and continue to work closely with the Teachers Association to ensure that the Fullerton School District remains a responsible part of the Fullerton community in this time of crisis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca Deuel-Gallegos  
Fullerton Resident

**Comment 57:**

I would like to address the concerns of reopening our schools in the Fullerton District again. I am a registered nurse, front-line worker, who works at a local hospital. I want to tell you that all the hospitals are in CRISIS, DISASTER mode. You may reach out to the Public Health Department for more information. Many are dying every hour and many of us health care workers are either getting COVID or completely exhausted from the workload, the amount of patients with COVID, and from the lack of staff and resources. One nurse is taking care of 10 sick patients, who are one of your family members or friends. With this kind of ratio, it is impossible to give the quality care to any individual that they deserve. It is also very dangerous. 911 paramedics are not picking up everyone who are dying, because there are no spaces. Please close all in-person learning for the sake of our teachers, students, and family members.

Thank you.

Very, very Concerned parent Jane Park