

Public Comments received by 2:30 p.m. on December 15, 2020:

Comment 1:

I understand there is a call for all schools to end in-person education and I write to ask our Board to reject that movement and keep our kids in school. Our district has taken drastic and effective steps over the past several months to adapt its facilities and procedures to ensure the safety of all concerned. These actions seem to be working and our kids desperately need in-person education to mitigate the impacts of what will already be a gap in learning caused by the reactions to the pandemic.

As a Board, you have shown leadership in preparing our schools to open safely. Our Superintendent, staff and of course our teachers have also worked both diligently and effectively as we have re-opened our schools. Trust your knowledge of the science behind this virus and the measures in place that prevent its spread in our schools. Rely on your staff and teachers and all of us families to continue exercising caution in accordance with the procedures in place.

I strongly urge you to exercise our district's local control and affirm your commitment to keeping our schools open for in-person education.

Sean Fitzgerald

Comment 2:

As 1 of the approximately 140 junior high teachers in the district, I believe having only 1 "Junior High Rep at Large" represent us at the bargaining table is not enough. He or she offers only one perspective and we need both an electives perspective as well as a core subject perspective, at the least. The time is overdue for the 5 member teams of both sides to expand to include at least 6 members each. I myself, as well as other junior high teachers, are looking to FSD for action on this point soon!

Erin Klopfer

Mathematics Teacher
Parks Junior High School

Comment 3:

Dear Fullerton School District Board of Trustees,

Thank you for giving your district's families the choice of distance learning AND in-person instruction. Half of your families have chosen to stay on line and participate in distance learning. I'm one of the 50% of district families that chose in-person education and that in-person education is vital for the success of my student.

While other districts might make other choices, you are providing equity in education for all your students, both those who want to stay at home and those who want to be on campus.

I know that the positive case rate in the Fullerton School District is less than 1% and that 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.

Your district superintendent and his cabinet have ensured a safe environment on our campuses and they've spent a great deal of time and money to do that. 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.

Please continue your strong support of in-person education in Fullerton. I have no Plan B for my son's education, I'm counting on you now to protect my son and every student in Fullerton by continuing to offer both distance and in-person learning.

Jennifer Fitzgerald

Comment 4:

Dear FSD Board,

I have sent a letter recently regarding staying in person, but I wanted to be sure to have this read in front of my FETA Union remembers.

Not all teachers want to go to distance learning.

As a Special Education teacher I have seen my student's grades drastically improve. The ones that come in person are completing more work, have greater participation and thus are achieving higher scores on assessments.

Teachers do not realize that students will go elsewhere if we go to DL resulting in budget cuts and job loss.

My own child was struggling in the DLA Kinder program when on distance learning, but is doing so much better now in person.

There must be a creative solution to appease those the teachers that want to teach from home and those that want to stay in-person. Hazard pay? I know this has been brought up, but maybe we could revisit it?

Please do not have us go back to Distance Learning!

Thank you for your time,

Katherine Vidales
Parks Jr High

Comment 5:

Dear Fullerton School District Board of Trustees,

Thank you for continuing to support in-person learning. I have chosen on-campus learning for my kids, as I have seen their need for in-person connection and support from their teachers and peers in order to be successful in their learning. Every child learns differently, and I have been so appreciative of the opportunity for parents to choose the learning option that best works for their child and family during this unsettling time. I have been so proud that our district has safely provided the option of in-person learning,

providing equity in access to education. This is essential, particularly for children who, for whatever reason, do not have access to the support they need to facilitate successful distance learning at home, or simply require human connection to thrive .

The District has done an amazing job of providing a safe on-campus option for your students and staff, which is evident in our minute positivity case rate in the Fullerton School District (less than 1%). Please share your confidence, pride, and respect for your district superintendent and his cabinet who have invested time, energy, and money to ensure a safe environment for in-person learning on our campuses.

Please continue your strong support of in-person education in Fullerton. On campus education for my students is helping them achieve academic success. My family is counting on you to stand up for continuing in-person education in Fullerton.

Heather J. Dale,

Comment 6:

Dear Fullerton School District Board of Trustees,

The Fullerton School District has done an amazing job of providing a safe on-campus option for my son. I pray for his sake that the school can remain open. He is thriving now and for the first time, he looks forward to going to school.

When given the option to Zoom into class from home or attend school, he would rather attend school. When the shut down first happened in March of 2020, it also shut down his spirit. I was seeing his motivation diminish every day. He was missing his peers and the connection to his teachers.

Once school opened again, the fire within him ignited more than ever before! We feel safe and confident the district is doing everything they can to keep everyone safe. Please continue to keep the schools open for students like my son so they can succeed in their academic careers.

Thank you,
Angelica Farias - Parent Sunset Lane

Comment 7:

Dear Fullerton School District Board of Trustees,

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 student gets to learn in person and with his peers; it's made a huge difference for him during this otherwise insane year.

Other districts can do whatever they choose, but understand that you are providing equity in education for all your students, both those who want to stay at home and those who want to be on campus.

The safety of our campuses is shown in the minuscule positivity case rate in 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.

I applaud your district superintendent and his cabinet who have ensured a safe environment on our campuses. 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.

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Juli & Matt Stockstill

Comment 8:

I want to tell you that I am committed to staying in my classroom. I am grateful for the outpouring of support that we have received from the district at every level and I feel safe and happy when I come to work. Every month I meet on Zoom with the staff of Scope Magazine and their teacher advisors from around the country. I almost feel bad telling them about what we're doing at FSD because of the horror stories I hear from teachers in other districts and other states. Our administrators at LV are selfless in their support of the staff here (Bill Lynch and Debbie Bennett are saints) and the district has supported us in every conceivable way. Whether it's instructional materials, PPE, sanitizing, moral support, additional support staff - we have it all. I have friends who work in other districts who had their support staff taken from them while we at LV received *more* support. One of our subs, Amber Dube, is a force of nature. She assists my co-teaching class because my SpEd co-teacher is immunocompromised and teaches from home. Now those kids have three teachers watching out for them, and I have the i-Ready scores to prove it. In fact, I have seen phenomenal growth in *all* of my classes: an average of **188%** of our year-end goal and we're only halfway through the year. And don't get me started on how the students have stepped up. They inspire me every day.

I wouldn't want to be in admin on the *best* day, so I can imagine the stress admin is dealing with at my site let alone what you are dealing with at the district. Please know that I am grateful and I truly appreciate what you all are doing. Please pass along my sincere thanks to Dr. Pletka, the board, Dr. Hammitt, our facilities folks - everybody.

Many of my students worry that we are going to return to DL and they don't want it. We're teaching in in-person class sizes of maybe 10 socially-distanced kids at most. We have PPE and sanitize our rooms several times a day. We can do this. We're frontline workers and if the kids are willing to show up then we should too.

Tony Wilson
Ladera Vista

Comment 9:

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chosen on-campus learning and am so grateful my student gets to learn in person and with his peers; it's made a huge difference for him during this otherwise insane year.

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Arthur Miguel

Comment 10:

The following is from a Fullerton teacher who wishes to stay anonymous.

As a Fullerton employee and parent, I am both disgusted and disappointed in the lack of effort to ensure the safety of students and staff in the decision- making of keeping our schools open. Hindsight is happening now and as the schools and districts in our neighboring cities and districts are making the logical and safe decision to close, here we are remaining open as covid is **rampantly** spreading in OUR community. Fullerton Elementary School District is shamelessly using every loophole in the CDC verbiage and force feeding principals to repeat over and over again that covid is not spreading on campus, yet our numbers are increasing *every single day*. The board thinks we can not see through their manipulative tactics to keep this business open for their personal gain. Know that in hindsight, when this is all over, teachers, parents, districts and communities will remember that Fullerton made the choice to endanger students and staff by remaining open and this will be the cause for decrease in student enrollment and teacher turnover in coming years. This is proven through the vast majority of parents who are choosing to keep their students home **so they can remain safe** and the continual growth in 100% distance learning numbers. The parents see it, the teachers see it but the board turns a blind eye when confronted and repeatedly show their selfish true colors. As we head into the holiday break, I urge of you to **fight harder for us**; those who are being forced to come to work and put our own families in danger, those who don't have the luxury of using multiple PN days to prove a point and shouldn't have to, those who have too high of a moral standard to fake symptomatic so we can stay home, and most importantly, those who truly care about our students and therefore are putting their health first before anything because a student who is alive will ALWAYS outweigh a student who is behind academically, emotionally and mentally.

Comment 11:

Dear Fullerton School District Board of Trustees,

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 student gets to learn in person and with his peers; it's made a huge difference for my kids during this otherwise insane year.

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The safety of our campuses is shown in the minuscule positivity case rate in the Fullerton School District which is .33% among students and just 1.06% among staff, as of today.

I applaud your district superintendent and his cabinet who have ensured a safe environment on our campuses. 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.

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Proud Fullerton Parent,
Chantel Rosete

Comment 12:

My name is Elizabeth Ellison and I am a teacher in the Fullerton School District. This is actually my 27th year in this district. I want to speak about our current situation in the midst of this horrible pandemic. I do very much appreciate the efforts of the district to implement safety measures as we have transitioned to the hybrid model of teaching. I do believe that the district has gone above and beyond in their efforts to try to keep everyone as safe as possible.

However, as science is proving over and over again, safety measures can only do so much. The best way to stay safe is to stay home as much as possible. Yes, the district has invested in amazing safety protocols, but the district has also invested in the technology to enable teachers and students to effectively engage in distance learning. I don't know what the cabinet or FSD administration has witnessed first hand, but I can tell you that for the handful of students who come to campus each day, it is a joyless experience. Yes, they see friends, but the strain and the stress is palpable. As I said, I don't know if the cabinet or FSD administration has witnessed this in person, but teaching to kids, in person and on Zoom is less than ideal at best. Spending their days in mostly empty classrooms, being reminded to wear a mask, sanitize, stay 6 feet apart is depressing. My students wander in like quiet ghosts. They wash and sanitize their hands and then they log into Zoom so we can experience something like a whole class experience because the vast majority of their classmates are still learning from home. And there is very little consistency as students can at any time choose to spend the day

zooming from home for whatever reason. Having experienced all of this first hand since early August, I can say that the consistency of distance learning benefits our students to a far greater degree than the tense, stressful, lonely, quiet, joyless existence on campus.

As I said, I am a teacher. I am also a mother to a 7 year old little boy. What I am not is a hero. I am not a hero. I teach, and to ask me to put my health and even my life on the line, when we have an excellent distance learning plan in place is tragic to me.

As we have seen in the past few days, there is a light at the end of this very long. dark tunnel. We can't change the past, but we can make decisions right now that will get all of us safely to the end of that tunnel.

I am respectfully asking the board and FSD Administration to please consider moving the district back to a distance learning model. We know, without question, this will keep our students and staff the safest. We also know this won't last forever. Again, I am a mother, a friend, a niece, a cousin and a teacher. I am not a hero.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Ellison

Comment 13:

My name is Rosalyn Wolpert. I am one of the school readiness nurses for the district. I am writing to ask that you prioritize distance learning instruction rather than continuing with in- person instruction. As the number of cases for COVID continue to increase in our state and community, I am urging you to reconsider keeping our school district's open for in-person instruction. Many of my family members are nurses who are working in the trenches of this terrible pandemic, including the emergency rooms and intensive care units of our local hospitals. In addition to the many hours spent caring for and treating patients affected by COVID, members of my family are exhausted and fatigued with the stresses that this disease brings to many people. Sadly, our family has experienced extended family members dying from the effects of the virus. This pandemic has hit too close to home for me and my family. This is the reason for my urgency to request that our district move to distance learning.

Keeping our schools open adds to the burden of cases that affect our community, healthcare workers/system, and families/students unnecessarily. By having Fullerton School District close schools for in-person instruction and move to distance learning, our community can help prevent the spread of this virulent disease and help flatten the curve as we did at the beginning of the pandemic in March.

Prioritizing our students, families, and staff safety during this explosive time should be our biggest priority. The longer we wait to close our schools, the more people will run the risk of becoming exposed to the virus unknowingly, which can potentially add to the burden of care for families and our healthcare workers as I know too well from my personal experiences. Now more than ever, we as a school community, should support our local healthcare system by closing our schools to prevent more people from spreading the disease. With many hospitals at full capacity in the emergency rooms and intensive care units, where will potentially newly affected patients receive care?

We all want our students back in the classrooms learning and growing, but lives hang in the balance. SAFETY has to be the priority. Now is not the time to keep our schools open; in- person instruction creates a breeding ground for anyone to get this virulent

virus. Teachers and students are not yours to sacrifice. Please reconsider the district's plan to keep schools open for in-person instruction and allow our teachers to provide distance learning instruction until the community's COVID cases have gone down or plateaued.

I thank you for your time and I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rosalyn Wolpert, RN

Comment 14:

Dear Fullerton School District Board of Trustees,

I wanted to write in support of the in-person learning that we have appreciated being available to our child this school year. Our family has always felt that the staff are doing a great job implementing health and safety measures, and are grateful for all that they are doing.

My child is in Kindergarten, and we have noticed that being able to attend class with other students has made a difference for her at this crucial stage of learning. I see a positive difference in her cognitive development and an elevated zest for education at the times when she is able to learn in a classroom setting.

As an educator myself, I also recognize the challenges of simultaneously teaching online and in-person, and if it is an option, I also support any classroom changes that might enable some teachers to teach online while others are in-person.

Thank you for taking the time to review my comments. We appreciate all the research you are conducting as you make decisions about how to move forward with what is best for Fullerton School district students and staff members.

I have included a Cambridge study regarding the impact of online learning on mental health that was of interest to me.

<https://fee.org/articles/cambridge-study-children-s-mental-health-has-deteriorated-substantially-during-lockdown/>

Thank you,

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Megan Warren

Comment 15:

I am a mother of a (13) year son who attends Parks Junior High and a (15) year old daughter who goes to FUHS.

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 or high school experience. Getting dressed, up and out of the house offered a renewed commitment to learning and the new

normal that social interaction offers. The idea that this schedule could be taken from the kids is just heart breaking and not substantiated from a health perspective. 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 16:

Good Evening,

My comments tonight are out of concern. I am concerned about how decisions are being made by the Administration, and I am concerned that the safety of the Students and Staff is not being given the priority it deserves.

The Administration unilaterally decided that the schools would return to Distance Learning for two weeks after Winter Break. While that is better for safety, it does not go far enough. When surrounding districts have not even returned to in-person learning, and do not plan to until March; and when other districts have already returned to Distance Learning after being in the in-person learning model, and do not plan to open until February 1, I ask why is it that the Fullerton Elementary Administration is not making the safety of its Students and Employees a priority? The transmission rates of COVID-19 have grown to a point, the Administrators should be taking much greater precautions.

My second concern is that of PAL. The Administration has often touted the use of PAL, and how well it works. It is unfortunate that PAL is used most when it is convenient for the Administration. In the case of returning to Distance Learning, FETA Leadership sat down just to hit a brick wall. The facts of COVID-19 were explained, yet FETA just kept being put off. Last week's letter stating two weeks would be spent back in Distance Learning came as a complete surprise, and again, unilaterally from the Administration. Two weeks does not go far enough, and is an affront to the Members of FETA, and the relationship FETA has tried to build.

Other Orange County Districts:

Anaheim Elementary SD – March 21 (No Hybrid to date)

Anaheim Secondary SD – March 15 (No Hybrid to date)

Brea Olinda USD – DL until February 1

Buena Park Elementary – DL until February 1

Centralia Elementary – DL until January 19

Garden Grove USD – DL until further notice

La Habra Elementary - DL until January 25

Magnolia SD – Remains in DL until further notice

Santa Ana Unified – No return date (No Hybrid to date)

Savanna Elementary – DL until February 1

Westminster – DL until February 12

(All districts plan to reassess. If cases remain high, these dates will be pushed back.)

Sincerely,

James M. Rogers, California Teachers Association/NOCUT

Comment 17:

Dear Fullerton School District Board of Trustees,

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. **We have chosen on-campus learning and are so grateful our daughter Dakota gets to learn in person and with her peers.** In fact, she performed so poorly online last year that we were shocked at her testing results early this school year. We called an emergency IEP and the decision was made to allow Dakota to be in her classroom with her teacher 5 days a week. This move has made a wonderful difference in her educational and social life.

Other districts can do whatever they choose, but understand that you are providing equity in education for all your students, both those who want to stay at home and those who want to be on campus.

The safety of our campuses is shown in the minuscule positivity case rate in the Fullerton School District which is .33% among students and just 1.06% among staff, as of today.

I applaud your district superintendent and his cabinet who have ensured a safe environment on our campuses. 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.

Please continue your strong support of in-person education in Fullerton. On campus education for my student is helping him achieve academic success. My family is counting on you to stand up for continuing in-person education in Fullerton.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dallas Stout

Comment 18:

I would like to start off by thanking you for all of your time and dedication to our students, families and employees. I appreciate that you have worked with FETA and it's teachers, to allow us some time to quarantine after the holidays. Thank You.

I realize that this is a difficult time for everyone. You ALL, have had to make many difficult decisions, and continue to do what you believe is best for our community. Although we are not all going to agree, I realize that you are in a position where you will need to make a judgment call that is best for our students, families, and employees.

I have been building brain's for 9 years! Yes, building brains! Our preschooler's brains are literally changing shape, size, making connections that will last a lifetime, and will support their future academic success. I know how important this time is for our little friends. I want to assure you ALL, that we have been working hard to create curriculum and zoom sessions that support brain development. Please be assured that our team of

State Preschool teachers have been creating a curriculum that is supporting brain development, and we are confident that our students' brains are building. We can do this virtually, for a while!!!

I ask you to keep in mind the fact that covid is affecting people of color at astonishing high rates. The families we serve in State Preschool, are primarily people of color, and our preschool workforce is primarily people of color. Our community of learners and workforce in preschool is at high risk for not only contracting COVID but dying from it.

With this in mind, I ask you to consider, that life and health is what is best for all. I believe that in our hearts, we all believe life, and health is what is best for ourselves, those we teach, and people we love. This is an unprecedented time and people are dying daily from this pandemic. I read a statistic that states we are losing the same amount of people we lost on 9/11 daily. Daily! Let that sink in. 9/11, deaths, daily. We need to consider that at the time, life and health is what matters. I am afraid for my life, and I am afraid for my family's life. Please consider returning to 100% virtual learning, so that our students, teachers, and employees can prioritize staying healthy and alive. I envision that one day we will all come out of this stronger, with healthy, happy, students and teachers. We only ask of this in such an extraordinarily dangerous time. Please consider 100% virtual instruction until we see a stable decline in Covid positive cases.

Sincerely,
Vanessa Rosas-Vera, State Preschool Teacher

Comment 19:

Dear Fullerton School District Board of Trustees,

To Whom It May Concern:

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. My husband and I chose on-campus learning and am so grateful my kids get to learn in person and with their peers; it's made a huge difference for both my kids during this otherwise insane year.

Other districts can do whatever they choose, but understand that you are providing equity in education for all your students, both those who want to stay at home and those who want to be on campus.

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Dara Amboy Francisco

Comment 20:

I want to express my genuine appreciation for the Fullerton School District and your role in the education of all students. I also want every board member to know that I am an exceedingly proud FSD teacher and parent. I teach at Beechwood school, where my 3rd grade daughter is fortunate enough to be a student, and my husband is a teacher at Parks Jr. High. We are all proudly part of the FSD family and grateful to be embedded in such a wonderful community.

I would like to request your consideration in regards to the FSD response to the global pandemic crisis that we currently face. The district has graciously offered two weeks that will allow teachers to teach from home. Considering the significantly increasing numbers in Orange County, This seems logical, preventative and is so important in terms of stopping spread that could potentially overwhelm our hospitals. I am thankful for this very wise decision and trust that it was made for the good of our entire community- students, parents, grandparents and staff. However, the date of return has been stated at January 19, 2021. This date is arbitrary considering we will have no idea what the positive case numbers will be at that time. Additionally, the data that is included in the FSD dashboard does not include student positivity rate based on testing by the district. Even testing a sample of students, as they have done in New York City, would be better than testing none. It is difficult to trust the numbers on the FSD COVID dashboard knowing that students are not tested at all, and we are only relying on the honor system.

We know that elementary students, if infected, are often asymptomatic. Why then, is the district willing to take these extreme chances with the lives of FSD staff? I am confident that there is no board or cabinet member that believes that the lives of FSD staff are expendable. Therefore, please demonstrate with your actions that FSD staff is valued and important. This will, in turn, help to save lives in the entire FSD community that are most vulnerable.

My request is simple; Allow teachers and students to remain at home until we know that the rate of positivity has decreased to a safe rate, specifically the numbers that placed Orange County in the red tier on the state dashboard. Our teachers are dedicated and will continue to put their whole hearts into the jobs that they do. They will continue to connect with their students and they will help them to progress. Their progress may not be like every other year, but 2020 is not every other year and any student progression is positive. Your staff will do everything they can for their students and the entire community. Please make the decisions that will support your teachers and staff to allow them to be the best for their community when this pandemic is over.

With Deep Appreciation,

Marisa Sonny

Comment 21:

I'd like to start by saying that I am thankful for the 2 weeks we've been given to work from home. I'm also concerned with the learning loss and social issues that our students are facing during these challenging times. However, I do not feel that 2 weeks will be enough time for us to recover from holiday gatherings. I have close friends who work directly with COVID patients and are terrified of what will happen after winter recess. One of my friends had 6 patients die in an 8 hour period last week. She explained that these deaths were from Halloween gatherings, not even Thanksgiving. We can anticipate that these numbers will increase drastically throughout January and February following the holidays. I would hate for our community to have to endure the pain of losing loved ones and coworkers. Our students should not have to cope with the deaths of loved ones, teachers, and peers, on top of learning loss and social deprivation. I hope an agreement can be reached to meet the health and safety needs of our community.

Mycee B

Comment 22:
Good evening,

As a teacher and parent, I urge you to allow distance learning to continue until teachers and staff can be vaccinated and new COVID case numbers follow a significant and steady downward trend. The risks involved for teachers, staff, and their families, many of whom rely on grandparents for child care, and/ or struggle with serious health issues, cannot be overstated. There are many reasons to believe case numbers will be even higher in January, after we return from distance learning. The University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluations, as well as UCLA and UCI, among other institutions, project a sharp and continued increase in case numbers after the new year.

<https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america/california?view=social-distancing&tab=trend>

https://www.stat.uci.edu/oc_covid_model/

<https://covid19.uclaml.org/>

Without testing of students, which is reliant on parents both feeling there is a need for and having the financial ability to do so, we have seriously flawed data in the FSD covid dashboard. I also question the value of hybrid learning- is it really worth the financial cost of having a handful of students on campus when the majority are home right now anyway? Couldn't supervised day care be provided for those students, instead of having an entire staff on campus? The pandemic has taken a toll on our students and their families, yes. It also continues to stress teachers and staff that are just trying to hang on. Please support teachers and staff and allow us to work from the safety of our homes until we can be vaccinated. Thank you,

Anne Stenton

Comment 23:

Thank you for your dedication to our school district family during this time. You have had to be involved in making decisions that nobody wants to make, with information that is changing by the hour. I understand and appreciate the position this puts you in as community members and leaders in the FSD.

I was pleased that the decision was made to revert to distance learning for the first few weeks after Winter Break. After the rise in numbers we experienced from Thanksgiving Break it is the responsible decision to make. However, I am worried about week 2. The letter we received stated, *Various employee groups will be providing supervision to students during that week of January 11-15th.* Am I to assume these various employee groups are our amazing substitutes and certificated staff? What about the concern for their safety? Yes, they must test negative for Covid before returning, but our students and their families do not have the same requirement. A study out of Princeton showed that children are key to the spread of Covid.

<https://www.princeton.edu/news/2020/09/30/largest-covid-19-contact-tracing-study-date-finds-children-key-spread-evidence>

According to the CDC: *The rates for Hispanic or Latino persons, non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native persons, and non-Hispanic Black persons were approximately 3.8, 3.7, and 3.3 times the rate among non-Hispanic White persons, respectively.*

I am worried about all of our families, but I am especially worried about the students and staff in our Title I schools. Many of our students live in multi-generational families, in crowded conditions and without access to health care or insurance. What will happen to grandparents who contract the disease?

How can it be safe for students to eat lunch in our classrooms without masks and not safe for our restaurants to be open to indoor or outdoor dining?

As districts around us are making the decision to revert to distance learning while our county is in the purple tier, I urge you to consider doing the same. Everyone's lives are important, students, teachers, administrators, staff and all of the extended family in the homes we all go back to each day.

Please have a special meeting to discuss this idea seriously and have a public vote. Believe me when I say that I know that none of you want to make this decision. You are hoping the governor or the OC Health Department will make it for us. We can't afford to wait for someone to save us. We need to take care of ourselves. Thank you in advance for making these hard decisions and considering the health of our entire community.

Thank you,
Pam Keller
Multi-age Teacher, Orangethorpe

Comment 24:

The return to Distance Learning during the current surge of Covid-19 cases is the only sure way to guarantee the safety of ALL our students and staff in the Fullerton School District. Our tracking system in the district relies on self reporting from students and families, with required staff testing too far apart to stop an outbreak, should one begin. The reporting system in the district is ineffectual and inaccurate. While much has been learned since the Thanksgiving holiday, the upcoming two week break allows for more gatherings over a longer period of time. The capacity to track and protect our staff from an

outbreak is not in place. A return to Distance Learning is the best way to keep everyone safe.

Please return to Distance Learning while the surge continues. There are no more ICU beds for Covid patients in the county. Our lives are more at risk than ever. Please protect us more.

Thank you.
Laura Grover

Comment 25:

I'm calling this document "The Giving Tree" because, I too, have nothing left to give.

I am drowning. We are drowning.
The strongest swimmers out there. Your teachers are drowning.
And now we are worried and scared for our own health and the health of the families we serve.

COVID numbers are on the rise in the county, in our district.
We are not feeling seen or heard. Maybe you hear us, but are you listening?
Teachers are getting sick. Our kids are getting sick.
Sick adults (teachers, subs, aides, supervisors, caring adults, admin) can't teach children.
Sick kids can't learn. Not in school and not on Zoom.
We have nothing left to give.

We've restructured EVERY detail of our days.
We have 120+ classroom platform notifications a day/night.
These come after teaching all day: after battling Zoom, unstable internet, black screens, attendance codes and late Zoomers that show up after we've marked them absent, even though attendance doesn't really seem to matter.
We have nothing left to give.

We battle glitchy tech everyday. Being hard wired doesn't always work, being WiFi reliant is inconsistent. Nothing is reliable and nothing is predictable.
Our best tech days can still host our biggest student behavior challenges . Our best student behavior days can be our worst tech days.

"Just let it go"

"Just breathe"

" Here is a PD about relaxation"

The self care advice doesn't match the expectations placed on us.

Letting go often feels like a compromise to the standards we held in our once successful classrooms.

We know what works.

We know what kids need to be successful.

We can't give it to them. We have nothing left to give.

Extra PN days sound great, but lack of subs is more work and stress on ALL staff.

Leaving pages of plans that now include: passwords, Zoom links, multiple attendance options/codes, Rtl alarms, recess times, lunch routines, dismissal and safety protocols....it's easier to show up tired, nervous, and scared than to take a PN day. Even when we have nothing left to give.

We are in a constant state of anticipation.
What could possibly happen next?
What is plan B?
What is plan W? It is an exhausting and impossible dance.
To expect even your best dancers to dance for 6 hours is unfair.
What you don't see is how much dancing we bring home with us.
We have nothing left to give.

The saddest part of my day is when I come home and sit at my table to do more work. My eyes hurt from screen time. My blue light reading glasses barely make a difference anymore. I'm checking blank assignments or partially completed entries, while decisions like "what should I make for dinner tonight?" make me cry.
I can't give my own FAMILY the attention they need, because ..I have nothing left to give.

My heart hurts as I reflect on how I've failed my students.
At the very end of the day, we want them healthy and safe.
We can always get to the curriculum later, but we cannot teach or learn when we are sick.
When the world around us is hunkering down for the storm, it only makes sense that we consider that as a plausible option, possibly beyond the planned two weeks.
Even with stable numbers, this method of teaching (Zoom and face to face) has no sustainability. Your teachers have nothing left to give.

Sara Cooper, Teacher at Richman School

Comment 26

Please return to 100% Distance Learning while the county is in the Purple Tier. The current conditions are hazardous to children in school, their families, and teachers.

Dan Proctor

Comment 27:

Please revert to distance learning while our county is in the purple tier. It is not safe for teachers, staff or kids. There are only 5 kids in in person school in my kids class with 20 kids at home already. It is not fair to put our teacher at risk. We can handle another few weeks or months at home until this vaccine is rolled out to teachers too.

Thank you,
Ashira Fox

Comment 28:

As a parent with two children at FSD and who loves our teachers and staff, I urge the board to consider returning to Distance Learning while we are in the purple tier and certainly in light of the current wave of infections and hospitalizations which will likely carry through the winter.

there are 0 percent of ICU adjusted beds available. There is literally no room for further spread.

Children have been shown to spread Covid-19 and also be infected as well as suffer from long-haul symptoms. And in light of the necessary quarantines when there have been cases at schools, in-person learning has been unstable at best.

I personally know people who have been hospitalized or have died from Covid-19 and I urge you to protect the safety of our families and staff.

<https://www.princeton.edu/news/2020/09/30/largest-covid-19-contact-tracing-study-date-finds-children-key-spread-evidence>

<https://undark.org/2020/09/02/kids-covid-19-long-haulers/>

https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update-36-long-term-symptoms.pdf?sfvrsn=5d3789a6_2

- Sara Wang

Comment 29:

I am grateful that the Fullerton school district has been open for children to continue their education. Looking at data on mental health and spiking rates of depression and academic regression during this pandemic, it is essential to provide a safe learning environment with consistency and positive interactions. Making sure children continue to develop and thrive is essential. Since not all children have a place to live, have steady internet, have a space to make their classroom, have parents to supervise and help them learn from home, have an environment that is safe and conducive to learning, or have the ability to sit in front of and interact with a device for 6 hours- families need the options that the district has been providing: at home, hybrid, and full time on site learning.

Darlene Rosete

Comment 30:

Hello FSD Board members, my name is Meagan Schubert and my son Kailen is a 5th grader at Orangethorpe Elementary. I am writing to urge you all to consider a district wide return to distance learning while we remain in the purple tier. The surge after the Thanksgiving holiday is scary and disappointing and I expect the same to happen after winter break. One week of distance learning will not be effective. I am concerned for our district teachers and staff. I do not agree they should be putting themselves and their families at greater risk by teaching in person. Please consider a return to full distance learning indefinitely after winter break until the surge is back under control, or better yet, until vaccines are more readily available to teachers and staff.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Meagan Schubert

Comment 31:

I want to express my genuine appreciation for the Fullerton School District and your role in the education of all students. I also want every board member to know that I am an

exceedingly proud FSD teacher and parent. I teach at Beechwood school, where my 3rd grade daughter is fortunate enough to be a student, and my husband is a teacher at Parks Jr. High. We are all proudly part of the FSD family and grateful to be embedded in such a wonderful community.

I would like to request your consideration in regards to the FSD response to the global pandemic crisis that we currently face. The district has graciously offered two weeks that will allow teachers to teach from home. Considering the significantly increasing numbers in Orange County, This seems logical, preventative and is so important in terms of stopping spread that could potentially overwhelm our hospitals. I am thankful for this very wise decision and trust that it was made for the good of our entire community- students, parents, grandparents and staff. However, the date of return has been stated at January 19, 2021. This date is arbitrary considering we will have no idea what the positive case numbers will be at that time. Additionally, the data that is included in the FSD dashboard does not include student positivity rate based on testing by the district. Even testing a sample of students, as they have done in New York City, would be better than testing none. It is difficult to trust the numbers on the FSD COVID dashboard knowing that students are not tested at all, and we are only relying on the honor system.

We know that elementary students, if infected, are often asymptomatic. Why then, is the district willing to take these extreme chances with the lives of FSD staff? I am confident that there is no board or cabinet member that believes that the lives of FSD staff are expendable. Therefore, please demonstrate with your actions that FSD staff is valued and important. This will, in turn, help to save lives in the entire FSD community that are most vulnerable.

My request is simple; Allow teachers and students to remain at home until we know that the rate of positivity has decreased to a safe rate, specifically the numbers that placed Orange County in the red tier on the state dashboard. Our teachers are dedicated and will continue to put their whole hearts into the jobs that they do. They will continue to connect with their students and they will help them to progress. Their progress may not be like every other year, but 2020 is not every other year and any student progression is positive. Your staff will do everything they can for their students and the entire community. Please make the decisions that will support your teachers and staff to allow them to be the best for their community when this pandemic is over.

With Deep Appreciation,

Marisa Sonny

Comment 32:

I am a parent of 4 children. 2 in High school, and 2 in FSD (1 in jr. high 1 in elementary). My wife teaches high school and I pastor a church here in Fullerton. Let me first say how grateful we are for how hard the FSD team has worked to meet the needs of so many families and so many needs. We have seen your effort and applaud you.

Working currently on the front lines I know there are no simple solutions to this problem. We have to work to keep the most venerable safe, and those who are in a position to help

keep the wheels of society turning must do so with wisdom and courage. History has been marked by how generations have responded in a crisis.

Although my wife and I have both worked in education we are overwhelmed trying to help our kids manage school at home, work at home, non-conducive learning environments, interruptions, and the emotional roller coaster that our kids are experiencing. I watched as my kids who love school, love their teachers, friends, and activities, regressed in motivation, and application in their studies. My wife and I have tried to balance giving them the extra attention to try to get back on track but it is an uphill battle. When the Hybrid option opened up we jumped at the chance to get them back into a more stable learning environment. For my kids, their on-site days are the best. They are excited to be back at school, see a few friends, play on the playground, and experience school. It is a little bit of consistency in an increasingly chaotic environment. It is not yet optimal but it is far superior to the regression and discouragement we were seeing in the stay-at-home, lockdown of last year.

My wife and I count on those hours to help us do what we need to do in the community. My kids thrive in a stable and equipped learning environment with their peers. The thought of going back into a long-term school at home option breaks my heart for my kids, those we are seeking to serve in the community, and the many parents who don't have the resources to adjust their schedule to accommodate their kids. I have seen first hand the severe impact that unstructured time and lack of accountability can have on kids. With all the fear and instability these kids see in our world today on-site school provides a small refuge where our kids can focus on making the most of this time instead of being victims of it.

For the teachers who are serving on the front lines, please know you are not alone. We will stand with you as you stand with our kids. We will help provide support for you as you are providing such crucial support for us. We will be there for you as you if and when you need it. Our kids will never forget the courage and calm you helped provide in this life-changing season.

Sincerely,
Caleb Beller

Comment 33:

Please keep the teachers, staff and kids safe by returning to distance learning permanently. I appreciate the preparation for the return in January to go distance only but, think it would be safest to keep everyone home until we are out of the purple tier. Thank you, Melissa Proctor

Comment 34:

Thank you for going back virtual learning after the break, it is a step in the right direction. With cases all around us going up and ICU beds completely filled up, going back to virtual learning is the right move at this time.

I understand our community needs our schools to be open, but our communities also need to be safe. Our students and families need to limit exposure. Since the number of Covid cases are increasing so rapidly in our community, it has caused my colleagues and myself to feel unsafe at work. Personally, feel anxiety and stress about going home

everyday after work, thinking that I have brought it home to my family. I know I am not the only one who feels this way. Our school site saw a major increase over Thanksgiving break, making it very difficult to enjoy our break (4 cases over a 1 week period). Email after email letting know that someone on campus tested positive or students in our class being exposed and requiring them to be quarantined was unsettling. I have a feeling that this is going to happen again over our winter break. Please consider our safety and mental health as we navigate through the Covid pandemic together.

Respectfully,
Mak San
3rd grade teacher

Comment 35:

Thank you for all the hard work everyone has been doing this year.

However, schools should not be open right now. We are currently in the worst surge with this pandemic and we cannot ignore science facts and numbers. We cannot turn a blind eye and think we can navigate through this with our safety measures. Our own local hospital, St Jude, is overwhelmed with the most cases they have seen and how selfish we are to keep contributing to those numbers.

Please do not play politics with the lives of the students, teachers, and staff. At what cost is enough? Must we lose lives to make a point...let us not get to that point and heartbreaks.

Teachers are being called lazy and selfish for wanting to teach distance learning and being criticized by parents. These teachers all want to be in class with their students and have a normal year but we are not in normal times and we are forcing their hands. These teachers are going up and beyond to teach our kids in these circumstances. Let's show these teachers some appreciation instead of anger and hatred. And as parents, we all want our kids at school too but let's do it when it is safe for everyone. We need to do our part in keeping our community safe.

By shutting down schools, we are not shutting down our kid's education. Please consider all our lives and safety.

Thank you

Karen KC- A concerned parent of FSD

Comment 36:

Dear Esteemed Board Members and Executive Cabinet:

I've been a teacher in this district for 22 years. I've never left, not because I didn't have other opportunities, but because I love it here. I love my school, I adore my colleagues, I love this district. I love our commitment to the community--not just the kids, who, we all know come first, but the commitment to our entire community. I love the promise we make to parents to take care of and keep their children safe--the promise that we will educate their most precious possessions, that we will do it with the best teachers, the most current methods, and the best tools available. Fullerton is truly my home, even though I live somewhere else.

What I don't love is what's happening right now. From my point of view, our union and district officials have different ideas about what should happen next in FSD. We are both fighting for the same thing for our community. We both want FSD to be part of the solution, not the problem. We have different ideas on how to do this.

My opinion is that the hybrid model is *not* the way to do this during this time. Teachers are dividing their time between "Zoomers" and "Roomers." Instruction, no matter how innovative and well-planned, is truly suffering. Teachers are incredible at multitasking. However, research shows that the tasks that people complete simultaneously do not have the quality of the tasks if they had done them one at a time. Our in-class students suffer, as we police the online class. While we look for students who have turned their cameras off, those who are inattentive, those who don't understand, and work to re-engage and remediate, our "Roomers" sit waiting for the next thing. While our "Roomers" shout out that they forgot their materials, or someone sneezes outside of their mask and must be sent to the sink to wash their hands, our most needy of students on Zoom log off because the teacher is off-screen, tending to the "Roomers." As a result, ALL of our children are suffering educationally. Neither class is getting our very best when we are splitting our best up all day.

Dividing our time, energy, and resources causes exhaustion, frustration, a general lack of morale on campus. In my 22 years, I have never seen so many teachers, myself included, look so downtrodden and defeated. Yet, we all soldier on, and continue to work our magic simultaneously in our digital and physical classrooms. Unfortunately our own physical and mental health suffers.

Additionally, despite all of the very, very careful precautions we are all taking, we cannot fully control what happens on our campuses. Sometimes students come to school after being exposed to COVID, and parents don't disclose this. Students aren't required to be tested. It's impossible to supervise student behavior at every moment, and, at no fault of theirs (they are kids), students are forgetting the rules and constantly congregating, touching while playing, and mixing cohorts on the playground. I know some of the staff members at my school, including myself, are frightened by the COVID numbers, and are worried that we will get sick and spread it to our families. Our surrounding communities are staying home. Our governor has enacted a curfew. We can't keep having students and staff members coming together every day. We can't. It's too dangerous. The potential *loss* is much too great.

Distance learning is definitely not ideal. The ideal situation is to have ALL students in school at the same time. However, it is abundantly clear that this will not be possible in the near future. I believe that distance learning is the way we will have to do things, just for this short time in history. Those who claim that full distance learning failed last spring, that it was ineffective, that the children didn't learn this way, and it should never be done again, is kind of like having a bad attitude while playing baseball. I've never played baseball competitively before, so if I was up to bat, I'd most certainly strike out. Discounting what distance learning has become now, with practice and collaboration, and repetition, is like saying, "I'm never playing baseball again because I struck out." Instead, we must remember that with the right team of coaches, a solid group of teammates, and the community cheering me on, I might become a heck of a baseball player. And incidentally, I am a heck of a distance learning teacher too--at least according to my students. We're better now. Let us try again, just for a little bit longer than two weeks. You

keep doing what you are doing, feeding our students, offering them extracurricular digital classes, supporting our less fortunate families. You're right when you say that we are better together. Let's be better together in fighting for the safety, health, protection of the people in the city we love. Let's stay at home until it's safe. We will keep the Fullerton children, our Fullerton staff, all of their relatives, and in turn our beloved Fullerton community safe.

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

Comment 37:

First of all, I wanted to write to thank you for your tireless efforts during these unprecedented times. You have worked without rest to keep us safe, to keep our children educated, and to help teachers, admin and parents as we pivot along with you so thank you so much, you are appreciated. I am also writing to make a request and I thank you in advance for hearing out concerned parents, teachers, and others as you deliberate.

In the interest of keeping our community safe, based on the very high numbers in our community, I urge you to consider distanced learning for all district students, teachers, admin, and staff while we are in the purple tier, or until a vaccine is made available to all students, admin, teachers, and staff.

Allowing persons on campus will cause imminent danger to our families, the families of teachers and staff, and cases in our community *will* rise. As you know, according to the LA times, there have been 105,764 cases in our county alone, resulting in 1,694 deaths thus far, along with lifelong disabilities for survivors and their families. Our particular district school rests directly on the border of Anaheim and Fullerton, **and the combined total cases in these two cities alone is currently at a staggering 22,871**. To make matters worse, according to the Orange County Health Care Agency, there are currently 0 beds available in our county's intensive care units and as cases rise, many people will not receive the care they desperately need.

In addition to looking at the larger numbers, I am walking alongside an individual family, who have lost two immediate members, one of which is Angela, a frontline healthcare worker who contracted Covid-19 at her place of work. Angela was 31 and did not have any pre-existing health conditions. Over the course of months, she died a terrifying, painful, and isolated death, as did her father. I received daily medical updates, so I was able to see each procedure and family decision up close, and the way her body deteriorated and what this has done to her family was nothing short of a horror story. She was among the first to contract the disease, but now, this type of tragedy is avoidable.

You have the power to save lives in our community. I want to urge you to do everything in your power to keep our schools' employees, students, community members, and medical staff safe. If we all do our part, the numbers *will* go down.

I appreciate your ear, as well as your consideration to all that is noted above.

A concerned Fullerton District parent,
Amy Lee

Comment 38:

Dear Fullerton School District Board of Trustees,

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 to the 4th grade level in reading and math since the instruction. Fully online teaching will not work for her in a large virtual classroom. I wish it did, as it would make our life easier. I know this is a challenging decision and respect the concerns from the teachers (my sister is one). 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 .30% among students and just 1.15% among staff, as of today. I teach statistics at CSUF. I know numbers. That percentage is so small of percent and if this was a "case study" researchers would not generalize results based on numbers so small. Please keep in mind of the 12,495 students that currently do not have covid. 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 IEP services. On campus education for our daughter, Dakota is helping her achieve academic success and mental health now and for her future. 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 39:

As a retired teacher of 35 years with the Fullerton School District, I continue to follow the amazing accomplishments our District achieves from afar. I am grateful to have been able to work with such a dedicated group of people, at every level throughout the District.

The years of work cultivating the PAL relationship between Administration and Labor helped us all to get through very difficult times together. FETA, through the PAL process, was able to help FSD weather the financial storm of 2008 by instituting

teacher furlough days, something no other Districts had done, It was not an easy or popular move, but FETA knew the District was hurting. We stepped up.

However, during these very stressful times dealing with this worldwide pandemic, after having worked together creating the Hybrid program, I have recently become very concerned with the potential weakening of the PAL process as the virus numbers surge here in California. FETA has continued to share their strong concerns of teachers, coming up with a variety of ways to address them. Yet the District seems to be moving forward on making the important decisions on their own. The teachers are hurting.

I will not take the time to state all the reasons I think FSD should remain in the Distance Learning mode. Current teachers, parents and community members will certainly do that for me. I ask you instead, from the depths of the PAL relationship we all worked so hard to create, keep the lines of communication open. Listen to the 74% of teachers asking for relief. Discuss all options to make improvements. Make decisions regarding in person learning together. Send out agreed upon updates with signatures of both parties. Stand united.

It won't be easy or necessarily popular. Opinions run strong, this pandemic is like nothing we have ever had to deal with before. Going back to Distanced Learning for weeks, or even months, is not admitting a wrong choice had been made. This too, shall pass. Teachers and students will eventually return to in person learning. Now is not the time. Be brave enough to continue to sit across the table with each other and "not let each other fail".

Sincerely,

Stacy Hollenbeck

Former FSD Teacher, FSD student, mom to FSD children, and Fullerton resident

Comment 40:

Keep the schools open, keep providing options.

Children need to learn from their teachers, many of our children have parents that can't work from home, many others can't help them because of socioeconomic disadvantages. Many children can only learn at school, with the support, knowledge and experience of their teachers.

The parents of all those children are the ones keeping food in the stores, packing, restocking, transporting supplies, delivering packages, working at the restaurants; we count on them and they count on you TEACHERS, they feel exposed too, maybe more than any of us, but they are at work every day, same for nurses, doctors, pharmacies, etc.

Let's all do our part, KEEP THE SCHOOLS OPEN, KEEP THE TEACHERS ON SITE, we need to feel that connection, we need to feel we all care for each other.

Our children are so blessed we were able to open, among hundreds of districts, don't close now, we are almost winning this, soon it will be over, and we will mostly remember how strong we were together.

Gonzalez Family

Comment 41:

Dear Fullerton School District Board of Trustees,

My second grader attends Hermosa Drive Elementary. Up until last Friday, I had been so impressed with how the Fullerton School District had handled learning options for our students. You brought our students back onto campus in a safe and effective manner. The safety of students and staff has been proven by the low positivity case rate within our district (less than 1%). You also gave families who were not comfortable with in-person learning options that would make sense for them. I was so proud of the example our district was setting.

It was extremely disappointing to learn we would not be returning to on campus learning following the holiday break. It was also confusing to hear that students would be safe to return with support staff, but not safe to return with their actual teachers. How does that make any sense? The obvious answer is that decisions are being driven by the teachers union, with the union interests in mind rather than being driven by the best interest of the students. I implore you to make decisions that are right for the STUDENTS. The on campus environment has proven to be safe. By not returning to campus, we risk students not learning as effectively and them being negatively impacted from a mental health perspective. PLEASE ALLOW OUR STUDENTS TO REMAIN ON CAMPUS.

Jennifer Gonzales

Comment 42:

Dear Fullerton School District Board of Trustees,

Thank you for your ongoing support for on campus learning, 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 healthcare 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. 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 43:

Teaching students is not just my job. It is my passion. I love my students and I miss being able to have them in the classroom with me. I miss being able to engage them with all the tools that would normally be available. I and every other teacher in this district care deeply about students' mental, educational, and physical well-being and consider those factors deeply when writing this. I wish that we could all be safe and learning in the classroom. However, at this time, where cases are rising higher than ever, both of these things can not be true. This reality makes me sad to have to put physical safety above educational needs, but that doesn't change the dire responsibility you hold- to protect our students. The current rise in cases is a serious threat to the safety of my students through long term covid complications, their families which are at risk from contracting covid asymptotically from their children, teachers, teacher's families, and everyone part of FSD.

I have always thought of FSD as a family, and that we pride ourselves on caring about all of the people in the family. Right now we need to protect our FSD family, we cannot weigh lives against the demands of education or childcare. I understand that there are many things that are affected by moving to distance learning, but the lives of our FSD family members is the most important. We can't fix the loss of lives. But once we are past this pandemic we can help support other factors affected, such as mental health, access to education, and work harder than ever to "catch up."

There is widespread concern amongst the teaching staff that the current FSD COVID-19

safety protocols do not protect our FSD family- in summation, because they are reactive instead of proactive. Protocols have been set, masks are worn, but as we have seen in multiple outbreaks across school sites, teachers are getting sick and putting everyone around them at risk. The problem with being reactive with an asymptomatic COVID-19 threat is that by the time we react, by the time we get the test results, many people have already been exposed to COVID-19 without knowing, sometimes for a few days. Positive

cases are inevitable if we stay in person- but how we handle them can save lives or endanger them.

I suggest that we take a more proactive approach to COVID-19 to protect against the spread. This proactive approach involves multiple items: first of which is faster results of COVID-19 testing. Next, moving classes to Distance Learning more quickly after positive cases

and a more in-depth contact tracing process that is based on science, not convenience. Contact tracing as it stands is not safe enough, ignoring an entire cohort that we do not know for sure was not exposed. We all know that this has quite a few challenges to implement, especially in regards to staffing. Having enough subs to cover all of the people who need to quarantine at home is very difficult right now and at this point of extreme scarcity, we should move those classes and schools to Distance Learning to keep from spreading ourselves too thin. We will proactively prevent a situation where people are coerced to go into work despite suspected symptoms, or contact with suspected positive cases while we wait for positive results.

COVID-19 has resulted in great sacrifice from us all and that will be true regardless of the actions FSD takes. So I ask you, which sacrifices can we come together to support when this over, and which problems and effects can not be remedied? I have always loved FSD and defended my school district, now I'm asking for it to reciprocate with consideration to teacher's health and well being. Moving to Distance Learning while the case rate is so high will allow students to learn and teachers to teach in a safe and loving environment, we have learned so much since last spring when this started- this time around will be much smoother. Time and time again, research has shown that students can only learn when **they feel safe and loved**. The same can be said for teachers. If teachers are constantly worried about their health and safety they cannot be the best educator they can be, and the stress of not being heard will drive turnover which none of us want. We want what's best for our students and our entire FSD family. Let's come together, be proactive, learn from home, and protect our FSD family!

Thank you,

A concerned FSD teacher who LOVES her students

