
From: Buchholz Family
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 7:56 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Full Comment from 2/4/2021 Board Meeting

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Good morning,

Below are my full oral comments that I planned to deliver at last night's board meeting. Please let me know if you would like additional input or information.

Thank you,

Kimberly Buchholz

My name is Kimberly Buchholz and I am in support of reopening the schools in the District. I have two young children, one in 3rd grade and one in 1st grade. While their individual teachers are going above and beyond to provide an education, the current structure is traumatizing my children who used to love going to school. Parents are also suffering with this deeply flawed and inequitable system.

The District's stated goal is "guided by the mission to provide every student at every school with the tools they need to be successful." Your stated core values are equity, achievement, integrity, and accountability. You are failing your mission, you are not achieving your core values, and you are failing the children of Sacramento.

The Trump Administration dismissed science and reality. My hope is that as we usher in a new year and new administration, science and data matter. The undisputed scientific consensus by the CDC and others is that schools can reopen safely when proper precautions are taken, such as masks, physical distancing, hand hygiene and ventilation, and that in-person instruction is *not* causing increases or spikes in COVID-19 infections.

The current lack of a clear and implementable reopening plan is harmful to the very children the District purports to serve, but it's also shameful and unlawful. The CA Education Code requires that for the 2020-21 school year, you adopt a learning continuity and attendance plan (section 43509).

I look around and see private schools, day cares, and other public schools in the region open. Why them and not us? Why can Natomas, Elk Grove and other districts adopt MOUs but ours can't? It's shameful.

You must rise to the challenge and reopen schools. The alternative is not sustainable. I support our teachers and our students immediately returning to the classroom.

From: Jessie Hersher
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 6:42 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Full Public Comment from 2/4/21 Board Meeting

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Good Evening - I was told I could submit my full public comment from the 2/4 meeting as we were restricted to 1 minute. Please see below. Please confirm that it was received and will be shared with the Board.

My name is Jessie Gouck, I have two daughters in the district, and I am in support of reopening the schools.

As a working parent, I have become my kids' tutor, counselor, playmate and friend – on top of my role as a parent, full-time employee, and spouse – and this demand is straining family dynamics.

There are three key issues that keep me up at night:

1. My massive concern for my daughters and all other kids in the district in regard to their social-emotional health – they are lonely and sad in ways they have never been, and the stress is showing
2. Their resentment towards school – both loved school and learning prior to distance learning – and now are exhausted and stressed by the prospect of continued online learning – they feel isolated from their teachers and classmates
3. The large amounts of unknowns and holes in the district's reopening plan. It feels like the communications so far are empty of details and commitments from the district. My frustration squarely lies with the disconnect between the district's claims of transparency while not giving enough information to be helpful

Others have spoken about the science and the data out of the CDC pertaining to schools and community spread—and I agree the data supports reopening. I recognize and acknowledge that there are elements to reopening that are outside the control of the district, so I will focus my attention on what I think the district can do to strengthen its communications and commitments to district families regarding the reopening plan and dashboard.

First, address the deficiencies with the dashboard.

- The dashboard identifies some items as required by the Safe Schools for All state guidance or items that are “above and beyond” state standards. Not all items are labeled and should be
- Items that are AAB that are in-progress should not be a reason to hold up reopening
- All items that are in progress should have measurable and timebound objectives and milestones attributed to them, and a timeline of activities should be developed. While it may not be possible to attribute a specific date to all of those items, you can certainly commit to the time it will take between the various steps so parents now what we are looking at
- for example, if we are talking about routine onsite testing, there should be transparency about what needs to be in place to move that item from in-progress to complete – milestones around the testing administration plan, the securing of funds and the amount needed, the purchasing

of equipment, etc. Are there other players involved? The Sac county department of public health? The county board of education? All stakeholders, timelines and milestones should be listed publicly and updated weekly.

Second, share what is needed to move the districts reopening plan from draft to complete – and state all of the necessary approvals needed to move forward with opening - get as many plans approved or in the pipeline as possible. Ensure the plan includes a timebound commitment to reopening once all of the necessary dashboard items are complete – preferably one to two weeks maximum.

Third, given the history between the district and the teachers association, I would like to see the district's plan account for reopening action with or without an agreement – given that we are completing this school year with no agreement.

I recognize and acknowledge that there are elements to the reopening plan that are beyond the control of the district – and I am not asking you to more than is reasonable and within your span of control. By making the steps of the plan available and clear, parents can support the district by communicating with other public entities and stakeholders to make our interests known.

From: Jason Spann
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 6:29 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Open the Schools

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Board of Education Meeting

Back to School

Thank you for your time to take public comment on districts most pressing issue, which is to get schools open and kids back into the classroom. I would like to state my support for opening schools as soon as possible. The science has been out for months, and there is an ever-increasing body of evidence that schools do not contribute meaningful transmission of Covid-19. As just one example a recent study by the CDC reported COVID-19 outbreaks related to kindergarten through grade 12 classroom settings have been rarely reported. I will not waste time going over all the evidence as it is readily available through numerous resources but suggest that all pertinent district staff and board members familiarize themselves with this information if they already have not done so. Given the unknowns of Covid -19 early on in the pandemic distance learning may have been the best option to continue kids education but we now have the scientific evidence needed for the district to move forward as quickly as possible to get kids safely back in the classroom. Distance learning should have only been a temporary bridge until we could get our kids safely back to school. Distance learning is no substitute for in person learning and the kids of our community are suffering the consequences of non-participation, associated mental health issues, and failed academic agendas. The information necessary to form a permanent bridge to get kids back in school is now available and needs to be implemented as soon as possible.

It is recognized that there are many obstacles for reopening, some of which are outside the districts control, but what is in their control is the ability to establish opening protocols and set a date for reopening as soon as possible. It is also recognized that there is more than just stating the district is going to open by a certain date to get kids back the classroom, but it should be the district responsibility to set the bar for a return to school. This plan will show the districts intent to follow the science and protect the interest of its only reason for existence, which is the wellbeing of the kids. It will then be up to other organizations to either follow the best possible path for the kids or not, but the district will no longer be the stumbling block. Those organizations which choose not to follow the science in the best interests of students will have to explain their difficult to defend position to an increasing number of people demanding a safe return to school.

The District must be prepared to set a reopening date for all schools once Sacramento County reaches a Covid-19 case count of 25 per day per 100,000 residents, which is likely sooner than later. Committing to reopening within 1 week of achieving that benchmark.

I believe the district really does care about the education of the kids in our community and they know that in person learning is the best approach. It is now time for them to step forward and make this happen.

Thank you for your time.

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Jason Spann

From: Cyd Skow
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 6:32 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment; Lisa Murawski; Isa Sheikh-Board; Christina Pritchett; Leticia Garcia; Darrel Woo; Jamee Villa; Chinua Rhodes
Subject: Public Comment for 2/4 Meeting

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Good Evening,

Due to time constraints at this evening's meeting, I was unable to read my comment in it's entirety. I would ask that the following be documented with the meeting's public comments:

Good evening. Thank you all for your ongoing work on behalf of our schools, and for continuing to seek solutions to the district's fiscal problems that minimize the impact to students. One of many issues that continues to be brought up, and rightfully so, is the district's reduced enrollment. This year's stark decline is just a continuation of an ongoing trend. As we take this time to engage in tough, overdue conversations, we need to ask ourselves the difficult question: Why don't families want to be in our schools?

It's important to note that while the district's enrollment as a whole continues to decline, that's not the case for all of our schools; some have seen significant increases. What can we learn from these examples, particularly from those schools that are attracting students from other districts? One of the primary learnings, I believe, will be that families want choice. Our "niche" schools are really anything but. One size has *never* fit all: one size fits *none*. So how can we capitalize on and replicate these results in all of our schools? How can we engage our entire community to help us ask the right questions, create a suite of solutions to engage every student, and solve problems that a year ago we may not have even known existed? How can we evolve into a district where families want to send their children?

As plans continue to be made to "Return Together," I would ask that the planners and powers that be, reach higher. Honor the sacrifices made by our community this year by learning from what worked and what was revealed to be incredibly broken. If we were returning from a natural disaster--an earthquake for example--we would not be looking to rebuild dilapidated structures as they were before the disaster. We would be trying to repair what we could, tear down what was broken beyond repair, and learn from the infrastructure left standing to construct better, safer communities. We would be rethinking how our cities were planned to begin with and whether those roadmaps reflected current needs or if they needed to be updated. And hopefully, with the right leadership, we'd be reimagining what's possible.

Because with every disaster, comes an opportunity for transformation. In moving forward with reopenings, let us not just plan to return together, but return together stronger.

Many Thanks,
Cyd Jaghory