Sacramento City Unified School District

Board of Education Meeting November 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Joshua Clark
Comment:	I am a Sacramento City USD parents and voter, and am supportive of the policy to require that SCUSD staff and students either be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, or participate in required weekly on-site COVID-19 testing. I am dissatisfied with the ambiguous resolution language that does not specify that testing should be weekly and mandatory for those who receive vaccine exemptions. Vaccines and universal masking are the best ways to protect our kids and community from COVID-19. This is well known. Testing is already a compromise step that increases risk. We deserve to hear unequivocally that students who do not get vaccinated WILL be tested on a fixed schedule, period.
	Why might schools not provide weekly on-site testing? One reason may be that there is too much demand, i.e. too many unvaccinated students and not enough tests. This is no excuse. It is something that the district must take steps to avoid. The best steps are (1) unequivocally encouraging vaccination, not the exemption option, and (2) not being overly permissive about exemptions.
	There are few reasons that exemptions should be needed and provided at this point. Hundreds of millions of people have received COVID-19 vaccines. "Wait and see" is over, at least for those ages 12 and up. It is well past the time that we should be humoring misinformation and conspiracy thinking while this illness continues to spread and harm our most vulnerable.
	All public polling and the results of the September gubernatorial recall tell us that the (sometimes silent) SUPERMAJORITY supports and wants strong, serious, science-based mitigation steps to end the pandemic in Sacramento communities. Those who oppose these steps are loud, but they are a small minority. We cannot let their loudness hold us hostage to this pandemic. Loudness should never win the day on public health policy that is this important to our families and communities.

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2021 11:35:33 AM

November 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	ELLIKA FRYKMAN
Comment:	In the best interest of my children and many others in the same situation. I request that you put into place a vaccine mandate for all children eligible for vaccination or weekly mandatory testing for those who are exempt. As a family with a school age children and a child under five, and unable to vaccinate, I kindly request you think of this and all other future SCUSD students, and reduce the risk of them becoming infected by vaccine mandates and weekly testing. Thank you.

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

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Date/time Stamp:

11/17/2021 1:57:59 PM

November 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Bryn Mumma
Comment:	As a parent of two SCUSD children who have already received their first vaccine dose and a full-time emergency medicine physician, I fully support the vaccine requirement for SCUSD students and staff. While breakthrough infections in vaccinated people do occur, COVID has largely become a pandemic of the unvaccinated. Requiring vaccination is the best way to prevent COVID from entering our school communities and further disrupting our students' education.

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

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Date/time Stamp:

11/17/2021 5:22:50 PM

November 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Lisa Herrera Hogan
Comment:	I am in full support of mandatory vaccines for all students and Staff. It is of the most importance for my family moving forward as we have auto immune disease in our family. My oldest is already fully vaccinated and my youngest two have started the process. Vaccines have been mandatory for enrollment and I don't see this one as any different. Thank you, Lisa

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

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Date/time Stamp:

11/17/2021 6:32:32 PM

November 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Amy Lapin
Comment:	I fully support the district's recently-approved resolution policy. I would like to state my concern that district ensure there are ample supplies to perform mandatory weekly testing at each school site for any unvaccinated person on campus. I would also request the district define a timeline for adopting a similar resolution for children aged 5-11. And, we are concerned about what the district's plans are for kids who do not get vaccinated and do not submit to testing. Thank you.

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

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Date/time Stamp:

11/17/2021 8:57:52 PM

November 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Ellen Yin-Wycoff
Comment:	Dear SCUSD Board Members and Superintendent Aguilar:
	I am a parent of 7th grade student (whose home school is the School of Engineering and Sciences (SES)) as she is currently enrolled in the independent study program at Cap City. I am writing to express my appreciation for the Board's recent decision to mandate COVID vaccinations for students ages 12 and older as this is a critical step to increasing the safety and public health for all students and their families during this pandemic. I am also submitting the following questions for your consideration and response concerning the safety measures and independent study program:
	1. In the recently adopted vaccine resolution, it provided discretion to the staff regarding mandatory, weekly testing based on public health recommendations for testing cadence, available staffing and testing resources. The flexibility in this language is concerning and does not ensure the consistent, mandatory weekly testing of unvaccinated staff and students (with personal exemptions). The spirit and intent of the vaccine resolution was to increase and improve the public health safety for all students. As I consider the return of my daughter to in-person instruction at SES, the vaccine mandate ALONG with consistent, mandatory weekly testing of the unvaccinated students with personal exemptions and staff is a critical factor for my daughter to safely return to in-person instruction. So what are the concrete steps or plan for consistent, mandatory weekly testing for the unvaccinated students and staff?
	2. As the FDA provided emergency use authorization for children ages 5 - 11, what are the next steps and timeline for the district moving forward on requiring vaccinations for this age group? There are many parents (including my extended family who have elementary age students in this district) that also have their children at Cap City and would like to return their students to in-person instruction at their home school, if the vaccine mandate is also implemented for the elementary schools along with consistent, mandatory weekly testing in place for unvaccinated students (due to personal exemptions) and staff.
	3. As the adopted vaccine resolution provided the option for those families who choose not to vaccinate or test on the weekly, these families will be enrolled in the independent study program at Cap City (based on my understanding). As we know the independent study program has been challenged and continues to struggle in getting fully staffed to meet the increased enrollment, what is the district's plan to deal with the potential influx

of new students to be enrolled based on this new mandate? What is the plan to also address the transition of students leaving their home schools to enroll at Cap City and those students leaving Cap City to return to their home schools? How can we ensure a smooth transition for the new students enrolling at Cap City so they don't leave the district? What are the additional resources and support that can be given to Cap City to handle the increased enrollment? I also want to acknowledge the hard work by Cap City staff in the past months as my daughter's learning experience has significantly improved with her new teachers on board.

I do want to express my appreciation and gratitude for the Board's efforts in adopting the vaccine mandate and your consideration of these questions in moving forward to improve the public health safety requirements for all students and their families in our district.

Thank you for your consideration!

Ellen Yin-Wycoff

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

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Date/time Stamp:

11/17/2021 10:37:35 PM

November 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Gabrielle Ingram
Comment:	The form you are requiring parents fill out preempts state law. There is no law, code or ordinance that requires a parent obtain a Doctors signature for a Personal belief exemption. In fact, it defies all logic as a personal belief is just that; personal. What SCUSD is doing is helping Public Health in establishing their database (the fine print says it all) and setting up a case to go after parents for defying Doctors orders or setting them up for the situation where Doctors want nothing to do with the form. SCUSD needs to be transparent that this form is requested NOT required. Your attorney's know you are out of bounds with this. If they don't, educate them with SB277 (2015). Do we need to sue or are you going to adjust and do what's right? Already SCUSD is mandating a shot that is not required by CDPH or the legislature. You have taken a Governors Mandate via a press conference and acted as though it is law. This is a slippery slope and an easy day in court for parents. Back up and do so publicly!

Speaking as:

Community Member

Email

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Date/time Stamp:

11/17/2021 11:54:04 PM

November 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Anna Molander
Comment:	We need a clear plan on how testing will occur for the unvaccinated so we can all be assured of school safety. The plan needs to be in place long before the mandate to give the community comfort that you are protecting public health.

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

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Date/time Stamp:

11/18/2021 7:34:26 AM

November 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Tami Hackbarth
Comment:	Now that Covid vaccines are available to the 5-11 age group the district must make ensure all schools sites have the materials they need to do testing.
	The masking mandate must stay in place to help prevent the spread of Covid.
	There needs to be clear and consistent guidelines for the 5-11 year olds and proof of vaccines must be entered quickly.
	Finally, for families who choose not to vaccinate the Independent Study program must be staffed adequately BEFORE the deadline to ensure those students have teachers. We do NOT want unvaccinated kids returning to school sites because the IS program is under staffed.

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

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Date/time Stamp:

11/18/2021 8:05:58 AM

November 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Devin Hallett
Comment:	It's incredibly important that everyone who can get vaccinated does get vaccinated for the common good and to protect those who legitimately cannot get the vaccine for medical reasons. Vaccinations like these are common - we all get vaccines for things like Polio before starting school; this requirement should be treated the same way.

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

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Date/time Stamp:

11/18/2021 8:13:55 AM

November 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Dominic Dawson Soto
Comment:	I support vaccine mandates - and feel that any child receiving an exemption for medical or personal reasons should have mandatory weekly COVID-19 testing. Vaccines are safe and effective and significantly reduce the risk of infection for our children and also lower the risk of our children transmitting COVID to their classmates, teachers, and school staff.

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

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Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2021 9:02:38 AM

November 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Jessica Shevlin
Comment:	COVID-19 testing on campus should continue to remain available to all students for the remainder of the school year, regardless of vaccination status. Unvaccinated individuals who are required to test weekly must be held to the schedule and not allowed on campus if they fail to test in a given week. If anyone refuses to get vaccinated or do weekly testing, they must not be allowed on campus this school year. This includes IS children who may be returning to school, and IS should remain available to any children who are not vaccinated and refuse testing. Safety protocols must be followed across the board.
	We parents also need clarification on the reporting timeline for 5-11 year olds. My daughter is scheduled to get her 2nd vaccine shot on Dec 2, but we are required to report by Nov 30, so I assume that I'll have to fill out the form twice? How will the District handle tracking of partially vaccinated students, and what will the deadline be for reporting 2nd vaccination shots? Thank you.

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

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Date/time Stamp:

11/18/2021 9:53:08 AM