

Name	Comment
<b>Item 3 - CLOSED SESSION</b>	
Anonymous	I think the public should know that the classified staff is being forced to work on campus full time during the stay at home order regardless of ability to perform all duties virtually and regardless of health issues and doctor's advice. The campuses are not all safe due to insufficient ventilation and inability to have full HEPA filters in the main ventilation systems and proper PPE, like true N95 masks are not available to all. The classified staff is being used as pawns by the district since they are unable to force the teachers to come back and expose themselves. There is not enough staff to monitor the additional students who will come back and definitely not enough custodial staff to make sure everything is constantly disinfected. Additionally staff is no longer required to test for Covid and students were never required to as they are at all colleges.
Ann Cerny	<p>As you enter into closed session, I hope you continue to take this situation seriously and live up to your roles as leaders. Leadership involves collaboration and insightful, effective strategies. For too long, the district has ignored guidance by SDFa to devise a real plan (not just with cartoon images of someone coughing into their elbow, but actionable, measurable, step-by-step execution plans – the “minutiae” as some refer to it).</p> <p>Thanks to the efforts of SDFa to demand safety, I commend the recent steps being taken in that direction. But you are not done. There are many issues to be addressed and worked out. Teachers know what it means to “lesson plan” something...it’s a script – a well-choreographed dance – a vetted procedure.</p> <p>There has never been, and there still is not a “lesson plan” for what it looks like to reopen safely. SDFa can get you there. They can! If you are true to your word in valuing collaboration, start with us. I say “us” because SDFa has the backing and is the voice of teachers. Let me say that again – SDFa has the backing and is the voice of teachers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen to US as they demand a slow, transitional reopening so that plans and procedures can be evaluated and tweaked where needed.</li> <li>• Listen to US as they demand a reliable and stable testing program for staff and students as essential for a safe in-person instruction.</li> <li>• Listen to US as they say it is irresponsible and unsafe to reopen for broader in-person instruction while in the purple tier. Leaders would not give anyone they care about a choice to put themselves in danger. Do the right thing.</li> </ul> <p>Educators are dedicated to supporting students. We are working very hard to meet the needs of all students. We have been going above and beyond to provide a high-quality, highly interactive distance-learning curriculum. We are so buried, stretched thin. Every ounce of our energy goes to our craft of teaching so we NEED our Union to do this work for us - to help assure a safe environment for students, families and teachers. That way, we can teach.</p>
Anonymous	<p>For just a brief moment, I would like to comment on the idiocy of rolling out a clandestine return of students to campus this past Monday. Many of us are confused on what to call this. Personally, I refer to it as the Melisse Mossy Meadow Plan or MMMP for short. As you will all recall, at the December 15th meeting, after Trustee Allman withdrew his Expanded School Reopening Resolution, Trustee Mossy took the mantle of trying to allow everyone to have exactly what they wanted by introducing a plan that would allow kids to come study on the meadow if the desired. Hence, the Melisse Mossy Meadow Plan. Essentially, Trustee Mossy introduced an iteration of Trustee Allman’s proposed Expanded School Reopening Resolution.</p> <p>Of course, we all know what happened next. Because the plan violated California law and was terribly unsafe, Dr. Wilma Wooten, the local public health officer sent a letter saying she was "very concerned" -- which is code for don't you dare do that. And the SDFa brought suit to enjoin the plan. A few days later, you all met and rescinded the plan. Good choice.</p> <p>But now, y'all have tried to bring whoever wants to come back to campus and put them all out in the meadow. This is so dumb it hurts.</p> <p>While we are all rather lucky to live in So. Cal., one of the most desirable climates in the world, the meadow plan calls for students to sit with their laptops at outside desks for five hours. The numbers of people who will sign up, attend, and then return another day, is incredibly small. I know because it’s common sense and I looked it up in the Book of Knowledge. Fingers will freeze. Kids can't really talk to each other. People will complain. And then they will all be dissatisfied.</p> <p>Why? I guess some people have to learn the hard way!</p>
<b>Item 8 - Public Comment / NON-AGENDA Items</b>	
Russ J	Stop believing the lame stream media. Kids dont get this virus. President Trump got it and was fine after one weekend. Its been too long. OPEN THE SCHOOLS!
Anonymous	<p>First I want to thank the board members, Trustees Young, Mossy, Gibson, and Muir for their votes on the items of 12/27/2020’s board meeting. I thank you for listening to the voices from multiple constituents to prioritize the safety of the students, teachers, and community. Your decisions helped maintain the consistency, integrity, and efficiency of student learning, refrain the spread of virus in the community, and potentially save lives. I appreciate your thoughtful and reasonable consideration at the time of surging pandemic.</p> <p>Also thank the district leadership and the staff in the district for their support to our awesome and hardworking teachers. Our family moved in this area in summer 2020 and My daughter is a 7th grader at CVMS. She told me that all her teachers are really good who have helped her learn. I have never heard a single complain from her about her teachers. These teachers deserve our support and respect.</p>
Sofia Serrano	<p>My name is Sofia Serrano, Commissioner of Academics at Torrey Pines High School ASB. On behalf of students, teachers, coaches and community members, I would like to express my gratitude towards our Principal, Rob Coppo, our Assistant Principals, and our entire TP faculty for their dedication in continuing for a safe campus reopening while focusing on our priority groups, such as Special Education, English Language Learners, Clubs, and Athletics. As the ASB Academics Commissioner, I feel as though students are well-supported by all of our teachers, counselors, coaches, TP faculty, and Administrators. Everyday that I log onto each and every one of my classes, I feel welcomed, safe, and supported. As much as we would all like to go back to normal, the tireless endeavors of our TP staff, Assistant Principals, and Mr. Coppo have made our ever-changing learning environment become more safe and comfortable. For all of that, I am grateful. Your work and dedication does not go unnoticed by the students. WE ARE TP!</p>

Name	Comment
Jennifer Daniel-Duckering	As a parent of two kids in the District, I would like to thank our wonderful SDUHSD principals and assistant principals who have worked tirelessly over the past 9 months, with little to no recognition, to keep our schools functioning. These dedicated educators have put students first by working collaboratively with their teachers to determine the best way to engage and support students. These educators have made communication with their school communities a priority and have provided important developments in a timely and transparent manner. They have also worked hard to ensure the safety of all people on our campuses and to maintain equity for all students. But they did not do this alone. We also need to thank all the site staff who are an integral part of keeping our schools running smoothly during a time that has been permeated by chaos and change. We are truly grateful to the guidance counsellors, campus supervisors, custodians, attendance office staff, health office staff, aides, and many, many more. These employees had to quickly adjust to and execute new processes and procedures, when we pivoted to Distance Learning and again when targeted cohorts were invited back to campus for support services this fall. They have supported those prioritized cohorts of students on campus and have helped clean and maintain our campuses. Finally, we thank our terrific Educational Services team in the district office - Bryan Marcus and his team. We appreciate all the effort put into support and professional development for our teachers, measuring outcomes and interpreting the data, and your attempts to incorporate and implement board direction - which has been less than clear or linear - into practical application in our classrooms. At a time when there are so many angry voices directed at teachers and educators in this country and this District -- when they are doing the best they can given the circumstances and restrictions placed upon them -- it is imperative that we thank them for everything they have done -- and continue to do -- for our kids. So THANK YOU!
Madeleine Moon	<p>I am a junior at Torrey Pines. I have experienced the challenges of learning remotely. I have watched how hard the teachers have worked to adapt their curriculum and keep us engaged. I have never had better discussions than in some of my classes during DL. Cameras on or off, students seem to feel more comfortable discussing hot topics on this platform.</p> <p>But what I have also observed is the tireless efforts of the SDUHSD administration, my own being Principal Coppo and Assistant Principals Gallow, Santos, and Shockney. They have acted as anchors for the community, helping bring together students, parents and our beloved teachers. They are pulled in many directions, and are trusted to represent all of their constituents in a fair way. They have done their jobs gracefully and effectively. They have solidly supported us. They are irreplaceable, and deserve our support.</p>
Carol Chang	<p>To Principal Coppo, Assistant Principals Gallow, Santos and Shockney, and to Counselor Zurcher, and to Principal Killeen, Assistant Principals Brunache, Thornton, Storey, and Counselor Maniscalco and to Assistant Superintendent Bryan Marcus:</p> <p>We wanted to express our family's gratitude to you. We know these have been especially difficult months for you as administrators. We wanted to show you our support.</p> <p>We thank you for prioritizing the needs of the students, for working with the teachers to support the students, effectively communicating with the parents, and ensuring the safety of all on campus. Both of our children have been navigating DL successfully. In addition, my daughter has experienced great connection with other students through clubs which have been successfully running and meeting virtually. Thank you for allowing additional avenues for students to connect.</p>
Patricia Lee	I want to express my sincerest gratitude and thanks to the principals, vice principals, staff, counselors, and teachers for all their hard work and dedication these past several months. We talk a lot about how distance learning and COVID has affected us as parents and students, but we know this has been equally challenging for all of you as well. We truly appreciate you making the best out of a difficult situation. Our district would be nothing without you and we support you!
Katie Martinez	I would like to give a huge thank you to Mr. Marcus, Mr. Miller, Principals, Assistant Principals, school counselors, school social workers, and teachers on special assignment (TOSAs) for going above and beyond to advocate for the safety and well being of our students and staff. These administrators and staff members have worked tirelessly since March to meet the needs of our students, to reach out to families of students who are struggling emotionally and academically. They have responded to teacher needs and concerns in a timely fashion, often outside of school hours. The voices of our district and staff administration don't always go heard but I hope our community knows how hard they are working to support our students and to ensure a safe, strategic return to school. Thank you for all that you have done this year for our students and staff!!
James Barnhill	Please consider allowing students, in the interim and before full reopening, to select their group/day in going back within the limited role started on January 11th. The alphabetical system isn't working to foster the socialization needed for students.
Ann Cerny	Is there any update or progress on making the Agenda Items hyperlink to corresponding supporting documents?? Please :-)!!
Ying Yang	<p>I would like to express my appreciation to the Educational Service team led by Associate Superintendent, Bryan Marcus. The plan embedded in the 12/15 agenda is actionable, detailed, and thoughtful. I hope we would have an opportunity to listen to his carefully prepared presentation in one of the future board meetings.</p> <p>I also want to thank all the site administration staff, especially our principals and APs, for implementing the plan to allow more students to study onsite at very short notice. You have all worked very hard despite all the uncertainties and frequently changing directions. We are grateful for your leadership, dedication, and flexibility. You have set up good examples for our students.</p> <p>I also appreciate our hardworking classified staff, such as custodians, aides, nutritional service for keeping our campuses running. Thank all the counselors for reaching out to the students who are struggling with DL.</p> <p>It takes a village to raise a child. I'm grateful that our district and school staff are striving to provide support and stability to our children at this challenging time. Together, with collaboration, compassion, courage, and courage, we shall overcome the pandemic!</p>
Heather Dugdale	I cannot underscore enough my gratitude for our principals, assistant principals, classified staff, teachers, counselors and all of the tremendous individuals who are serving our students and families every single day. They are the backbone and foundation of our District and many of them have been serving our students for decades. A number of them actually graduated from our schools. We are a top District in the County and the State because of them and their tireless dedication. For our district and community that is struggling mightily through this pandemic, this quote brings comfort - "Never be ashamed of a scar. It simply means you were stronger than whatever tried to hurt you." We are strong because we are loyal and committed toward a common goal ~ providing our children the best education possible. This is ensured by the amazing individuals who are our foundation, and that foundation is strong.

Name	Comment
Anonymous	<p>As a parent of a student with an IEP who is currently attending PTMS on a part time basis for specialized services, I am very concerned about the adverse impact that bringing more students onto campus will have on my student and other students with special needs. My understanding is that the priority group to be on campus at this time are students with special needs and ESL students, in other words, the students at highest risk. By bringing back hundreds of other students during a surge of cases during purple tier, you are making an unsupportive statement toward those students with the greatest level of need. Both Gov. Newsom and Dr. Taras from Rady Children's Hospital have emphasized the need to focus on those students with the highest level of risk. I urge the board to maintain the status quo and to wait a minimum of two weeks outside of the purple tier before bringing back larger groups of students. I would also like to thank the Principals, assistant Principals, teachers and classified staff who are currently onsite making sure that all the "trains are running on time" and that our students are receiving a 1st rate education.</p>
Adam Fischer	<p>I'm a parent at CVMS and I just wanted to take this time to thank everyone that has been working so hard during these challenging times to ensure that students have the best educational experience possible under the circumstances, and that the overall school community is being supported. Specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Thanks to the teachers, who are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Going above and beyond in preparing meaningful distance learning lessons;</li> <li>b. Being responsive to student needs and questions; and</li> <li>c. Creating the best learning environment possible.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2) Thanks to the site administrators, such as principals and APs, who are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Prioritizing the needs of students;</li> <li>b. Supporting students, teachers and the broader school community; and</li> <li>c. Communicating with parents.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3) Thanks to the classified staff, such as custodians, attendance, aides, and more who are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Quickly adapting to new ways of doing things;</li> <li>b. Supporting prioritized cohorts of students on campus; and</li> <li>c. Cleaning and maintaining campus spaces for cohorts.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4) Thanks to the Educational Services team in the district office, who are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Steering board direction into practice in classrooms</li> <li>b. Providing professional development for teachers; and</li> <li>c. Supporting teachers to research and develop best practices for the classrooms.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>I also want to specifically thank Interim CVMS Principal Chuck Adams for being so responsive to all my questions these past several months – he's been a great resource.</p>
Bryn Faris	<p>With severe division happening throughout our country trickling down into our community and our very own school district-with one group of people forming a Parent Association, charging for membership, with a goal of tearing apart our Union - and another group focused on protecting our school community from contracting a potentially deadly virus, WE NEED YOUR LEADERSHIP! We need you to HELP us come together, to bridge the dangerous gap that on a national level has led to breaching the Capitol building, traumatizing individual lives, and 5 violent deaths! That same dangerous level of tension is happening right here at SDUHSD! Please help us come together and move forward together. We can't keep fighting with each other. We must depend on the experts in their fields, in science and medicine and education, and we want to be able to depend on your leadership to go from there. The acts I'm seeing on social media and throughout our cities are only fueling this divisiveness and giving people the idea they too can do whatever they want like breach the capitol building, or in this case form an association recruiting anybody in the community to teach our children. I have a friend who works for CTA. In one of the Reopen Now groups they are targeting CTA with comments like, and I quote from social media (which as we know is a powerful and potentially dangerous platform): "It's time to send protesters (the kind that showed up to the capitol) to CTA headquarters. They need to start feeling the heat." and the response to that of: "I'm not kidding - that is exactly what I thought when I watched what was happening at the Capitol - that the next building that needed their doors kicked in is CTA!" AND THEN THEY CREATED AN EVENT for this to happen! This is terrifying! Please, I beg of you as a teacher in this district, please help us come together as a community. One of the core values listed on the board of trustees page is "we will work together to meet our challenges." Another is "we will model the type of behavior we expect in our district." I ask that you please try harder.</p>
Kimberly McSherry	<p>Our district has developed a wide and deep pool of talented administrators that are on site at our schools, working for our students every day. Our family has personally witnessed our Principals and Assistant Principals placing the needs of students first and foremost in everything they do. My oldest daughter had a conflict with a teacher new to the district that was causing her incredible stress, and she spoke to Mr. Thornton, her AP at CCA, about it. From the first response, it was clear he took her concerns very seriously. Mr Thornton advocated for my daughter, set up a meeting that he attended with her, and every step of the way made her feel supported and her experiences valued. Her stress level dropped. Just knowing that someone was on her side made a huge difference to her. Back in my school days, having an Assistant Principal know who you were usually was NOT a good thing. That isn't true at our schools, where we have dedicated staff like Mr. Thornton who make it a priority to connect with students, even if it has to be via computer video right now. I am tremendously grateful that my kids have leaders of such caring and integrity, now more than ever. They have earned the trust of my kids and myself, and are a huge asset to our board and district, now and in the future.</p>

Name	Comment
Jen Charat	<p>I've always admired the school site administrators in this district. When they present in board meetings, they do so intelligently, enthusiastically, and earnestly. I trust what they say. When I interact with them on campus or over email, they are quick to respond, helpful, and compassionate. Assistant Principal Freeman at PTMS has been amazing to work with in facilitating school spirit and helping us run an entirely virtual Science Olympiad program. If you thought Science Olympiad was sprawling and complex, try moving the whole thing online! And in the last month or so, Principals Killeen and Nuskin have gone far beyond the parameters of good principals. They are in legendary territory.</p> <p>Principal Nuskin has been tireless in accommodating everyone's goals, in thinking creatively, in anticipating needs, and in communicating with families. But last week, she took time, amidst this challenging time, to meet virtually with my 7th grader's robotics team and to answer questions they had for a project they're working on. It was really special.</p> <p>And Mr. Killeen has been responsive and supportive of students during school hours and outside of school hours too. He is dedicated to students and teachers, and it shows when he interacts with them or talks about them proudly during online school meetings.</p> <p>I am grateful for all our principals and school site staff every day.</p> <p>This has been a divided and difficult time in our district. The principals, assistant principals, and educational services team have been steady and steadfast throughout, focusing on students, their learning, and their growth, and I just wanted to recognize and thank them publicly today. Thank you.</p>
Grace Ko	<p>I would like to thank the staff, administrators, teachers who are doing so much to try to make things work for students and families. 2020 highlighted the essential role that school communities play and the many, many needs that they meet. I'd like to take a moment to show remembrance and gratitude for the ways in which those needs are met during more normal times, and recognition for how hard staff members are working to continue to meet those needs during current times. As a longtime educator, I understand only too well how much unseen work is behind every lesson plan, campus event, program, and communication that happens at our sites. For everything that students and parents see and experience, there have been myriad actions, plans, and discussions behind the scenes. Thank you to the administrators, counselors, office staff, grounds employees, instructional aids, nutritionists, campus supervisors, IT, M&amp;O, transportation staff, facilities teams, teachers, and staff for all they do. We appreciate you!</p>
Tara Curley	<p>I am an SDA parent of a Freshman and Sophomore who have been doing well in distance learning. They are challenged, their teachers are engaged, and they are healthy both mentally and physically. My personal decision to begin attending and engaging in school board meetings only started in October when I learned of the hasty reopening plan proposed this Fall. Up until then I blindly trusted the district, school board, and superintendent to govern for the best interest of all students. There seems to be a rumor that its teachers and the teachers' union that are opposed to a wide-scale reopening. I wanted to say that I and many other parents are alarmed and speaking up to encourage the district to do a thoughtful reopening plan based on data and science -- not alternative facts and pressure from a select group of parents.</p> <p>This is not an effort that is coordinated by teachers or their union.</p> <p>My kids miss attending school the way it was before Covid, but they are in no rush to go back to campus putting teachers, staff, and our community at large at greater risk of spreading Covid-19. While our district remains in the purple tier, online learning is the safest, most stable, and equitable education. It is also teaching students vital digital collaboration skills that will benefit their futures.</p> <p>As a family, we have been doing our part to act responsibly for ourselves and our community. Believe me, it's not easy with teenagers who know other friends aren't doing the same. But I want my family to be able to look back and know we did our very best to stop this deadly disease. I want my children to know that there are times we need to sacrifice for the greater good. I hope as board members you decide to do what's right for our community as a whole to help keep our students, families, and faculty safe throughout this pandemic.</p>
Cynthia Rajsbaum	<p>Earlier this year this board voted to have honors classes be weighted. That information does not seem to have made it to the High Schools however. It would be appreciated if the board or Mr. Haley could follow up to ensure that happens. It could help students currently in the college admissions cycle.</p> <p>I saw somewhere we are upgrading our filtration. It would be more useful if we could look at specifics. What is where. And I hope we can get our filtration, student testing and notification plan up to par so we have a safe way to reopen.</p> <p>Also I want to say thank you to the principals and assistant principals who have been doing an incredible job prioritising the health and welfare of our students and communicating with parents and teachers. Mr. Killeen has made this year better by sending clear emails and continuing principal coffees so the sense of community continues and the stress goes down with the changing plans.</p> <p>Thank you also to the educational services team trying to make this horrible year better.</p> <p>And to the classified staff for all they are doing.</p>
Sandi Adam	<p>I wanted to express thanks to all the district staff been working so hard to manage the demands of many different constituents: to principals, for being problem-solvers at a time when plans seem to constantly change; to counselors and specialists who have made themselves accessible to students; to custodians who keep campuses clean for those who are on campus. Thank you to the Educational Services team who have given important direction to the board on the practicalities of what can be implemented in classrooms. It's a confusing time and I am so appreciative of all their efforts.</p>

Name	Comment
Joshua Charat-Collins	<p>On behalf of the signers of this letter to the editor of the UT community press papers, I submit this comment:</p> <p>As students in San Dieguito Union High School District, we have experienced the challenges of moving to online learning. We have watched teachers adapt their curriculums to the demands of new and unfamiliar platforms. We have watched students work to acclimate to these new curriculums and the unusual structure of the school day. What has been a constant throughout these changes have been our principals, who have supported both us students and our teachers.</p> <p>In my experience, principals have acted as linchpins for the community, helping bring together students, parents, and teachers in ways each of those individual groups cannot. They are trusted to fairly represent all of their constituents, and especially during these pressing times have navigated the disparate interests extremely gracefully and effectively. Principals work to protect students and guide them through difficult decisions—decisions which are becoming more and more common as our environment becomes more and more stressful. SDUHSD principals have demonstrated their commitment to our community, inside and outside of school hours. They are irreplaceable elements. And they deserve our support as much as any of our teachers. We ask on behalf of SDUHSD students that we give them this support and praise them for all they do for us.</p> <p>Signed,  Joshua Charat-Collins, CCA  Irene Chung, CCA  Madeleine Moon, TPHS  Ayush Agrawal, CCA  Andrew Gao, CCA  Sebastian Charat-Collins, PTMS  Arnav Vora, CCA  Lukas Nepomuceno, CCA</p>
Anonymous	<p>Mr Allman, your hatred and loathing for our teachers and our principals that you engage in on a private Facebook page (that you delete dissenters of your opinion from) is unethical and shameful. These actions do not help this community in its most vulnerable time. These are kids and their education comes before your politics.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Dear Members of the Board,</p> <p>Utmost and foremost, SDUHSD has imposed on it a duty of supervision which includes a duty to protect its students from reasonably foreseeable harm. Therefore, the Board of Trustees has a responsibility to ensure that the District acts to protect the safety and wellbeing of all of its students.</p> <p>Further, the district's uniform complaint procedures states, "The Board of Trustees recognizes that the District is primarily responsible for complying with state and federal laws... The District shall investigate complaints alleging failure to comply with such laws and or alleging discrimination..."</p> <p>We filed a uniform complaint to allege that our son was harmed by Torrey Pines High School's discrimination and failure to abide by disability civil rights laws. However, the district did not act to properly investigate and/or otherwise address our complaint. In fact, the District's UCP response, under "Bullying, Harassment and Retaliation" included, "No request to resolve any SDUHSD employee concern has been received" even though we had made numerous requests and the uniform complaint, in itself, was a direct request.</p> <p>Therefore, we ask that the next Board meeting agenda allow for discussions about accountability such as: (1) what measures are in place to ensure that applicable laws are followed and its policies are implemented and enforced, including those related to prohibition of discrimination, bullying or harassment against any protected group; and (2) if district personnel fail to comply with the law, its policies and or fail to fulfill their duties, resulting in the harm of a student, what are the repercussions to its employees and what actions are taken to remediate the harm, or consequences, to the student.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I write to request clarity and transparency. As a parent of two students in this district, I have been reading all published school board materials, "attending" board meetings, reading communications from the district and my students' school and attending principal chats offered by their school. Thus, I was quite surprised to learn that schools in this district had re-opened this week, despite this board's late December decision not to do so while the country remained in the purple tier.</p> <p>It is clear that there are many diverse and divergent opinions regarding how and when to re-open our schools. It is also clear that as a board, you will be unable to satisfy everyone. You do, however, have an obligation to be transparent with your decision-making. As you consider next steps, please identify the facts that you will use to make your decision and then clearly state what that decision is and who made it. Such transparency will help reduce confusion, repeated (and to date unanswered) records requests, and an ever increasing lack of trust in our elected officials.</p>

Name	Comment
Michele Macosky	I would like to ask the Board to thank and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our teachers and principals during this unprecedented time. While nothing is normal during a pandemic, our teachers, counselors and site administrators have successfully managed to maintain a high-quality distance learning model which has allowed students – like my 9th and 11th graders - to continue growing academically. This is a huge accomplishment made possible by many dedicated hours of work, training, and time – and by teachers who spend their own money on technology to provide this quality experience for our kids. Teachers have led thoughtful class discussions and work hard and creatively to keep kids engaged, break out rooms provide ways for students to safely connect and we have the stability of a predictable routine with regular synchronous learning every school day. Teachers and district employees, including counsellors and staff, have been responsive to questions, prompt, professional and helpful. We are grateful for our amazing principal, Brett Killeen, who communicates clearly, calmly and with students in mind. We truly appreciate our teachers and district employees keeping academic integrity and equity as a top priority for students. Please publicly recognize and thank our tireless teachers, counselors, staff, and site administrators for creating and implementing the robust distance learning plan and all their work moving forward. They deserve our deepest gratitude.
Seema Burke	<p>I respectfully request that the ability to submit comments anonymously be suspended for virtual Board meetings pending confirmation of appropriate measures to prevent abuse. At live meetings, while a person did not have to identify themselves, we knew they were a single actual person making their comments. Several of us counted the comments submitted for the 12/28 meeting. OVER 45% of the comments were anonymous (164/358 comments). The risk of abuse with anonymous comments is too great where people can use several emails to submit anonymous comments, thereby not providing a true representation of the community's opinion. Why are anonymous comments being permitted now? What is the public policy behind permitting anonymous comments in the first place? How does the meeting being offered in Zoom change the accountability for a comment? I understand that Government Code Section 54953.3 provides that a member of the public is not required, as a condition of attendance, to register his or her name. However, the code speaks only to attendance, not comments. The two are different notably because comments become part of the public record while attendance does not. The potential of abuse alone should necessitate stopping the process.</p> <p>I understand there is a process in place to eliminate duplicates, however, if you are only checking for duplicate names, will it stop people from sending in comments from each one of their family's emails? What is to stop a person from using their parents' or any other relative's email address to submit comments? I could quickly get to 100 of these types of comments, all with the same narrative, but that would grossly misrepresent the views of the community. I say this from a nonpartisan perspective. No issue should be inaccurately represented in terms of public opinion. You need to have an algorithm picking up on trends that alert you to possible abuse. If you do have such an algorithm, please let me know. If not, please suspend anonymous comments until you do. Thank you.</p>
Andrew Gao	Thank you to principals, site admin, office staff, teachers, APs, custodians, classified staff, registrars, aides, food services, district educational services, and everyone else for their support of students during this time.
Anonymous	<p>I just want you all to know how proud I am of the administration at TPHS. They have worked tirelessly to bring a variety of groups of students back onto campus safely and have been in constant communication with the community.</p> <p>I appreciate the stability and teamwork of the administration at TPHS. They work together, as a team, for the good of the students, staff, and community of TP. In the past this was not always so, there was a time of yearly turn over of administration staff. That yearly turn over of administration was a big impediment to the strong and multifaceted student programs that TPHS has always offered. These current administrators are intimately involved with and committed to the unique aspects of TP and this is providing much stability and harmony on campus (and on the on-line campus) despite this year's multiple challenges.</p>
Molly Schneider	Thank you to our principals, site administrators and classified staff for your tremendous show of dedication during this unprecedented time. Leadership and management is not easy. Your hard work is sincerely noticed and appreciated.
<b>Item 9 - CONSENT AGENDA</b>	
Ann Cerny	I would like to speak in support of a few agreements and expenditures. In a crisis pandemic of a communicable disease, an easily accessible and stable program for testing is an obvious part of a robust plan – and something SDFAs have been demanding for months. The Agreement with UCSD to provide staff with every-other-month testing and if exposed is a step in the right direction. However, it does not meet the standards of a “robust” testing plan if students return back to campus in greater numbers. Many campuses that are more widely open require much more frequent testing to staff and STUDENTS to mitigate potential outbreaks. I urge you to approve this agreement here, January 14, 2021, but it should have been back in August of 2020. I look forward to the expansion of that program in the near future. Thank you for engaging with Siemens to conduct a thorough evaluation of air filtration across our campuses. Thank you for following the science of COVID and its airborne transmission. I look forward to the public seeing their report, room by room, campus by campus. I then look forward to the upgrades that meet the standards of experts like Dr. Prather. I look forward to the report that the work has been done before any broader reopening to assure the community of the safety of our facilities. This a good start here on January 14, 2021, but I do wish this was on the agenda back in August of 2020. Thank you for the Personnel action that assigns Brieahna Weatherford as a Principal on Special Assignment. Brie is a very well-respected administrator who will be invaluable to support our Principal team. Without forethought, collaboration or stability coming from the Board and Superintendent, Principals have been bearing the heavy burden of keeping our schools on track on their own. They deserve support. Again, I am glad to see this great idea put into place here on January 14, 2021, but I do wish this was on the agenda back in August of 2020.
<b>Item 10a - CONSIDERATION AND ACTION REGARDING THE 2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR REOPENING OF SCHOOLS CONSISTENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH MANDATE/GUIDELINES AND THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER</b>	

Name	Comment
Anonymous	<p>No matter how much I was hoping to get my kid back to CVMS campus, I do not think we will be ready for a large-scaled reopening at the end of January. I support reopening when we are out of purple tier for 14 days.</p> <p>A recent study reported in the San Diego Union Tribune on 1/10/2021 showed that schools do contribute to spread of COVID-19 when the virus is spreading at high rates in the community. One of the coauthors said, "Once community rates are too high, it is possible that there is little schools can do to diminish the risk." Right now, the daily new virus case rate is 53 per 100,000 residents, which was considered by Dr. Mark Sawyer, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Rady 'astronomically too high' The link of the San diego Union Tribune article is here <a href="https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/story/2021-01-10/growing-consensus-that-schools-do-not-contribute-to-covid-19-spread-is-complicated-by-worsening-surge">https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/story/2021-01-10/growing-consensus-that-schools-do-not-contribute-to-covid-19-spread-is-complicated-by-worsening-surge</a></p> <p>There is research showing evidence supporting schools do not seem to contribute to Covid-19 spread but many of the studies utilized data before December. I have been tracking the case number in the area with zip code 92130. During 12/12-12/19, the total new case is 70 and in last week our total new case is 178, 2.5 times of the new case number 3 weeks ago. When the case rates are so high in our community and new variants identified in the US, studies that use data before December might lose context and does not apply to current situation. Our decision should be based on the most relevant information, information that is current and valid. So I strongly support to wait and continue our current distance learning model for Q3.</p>
Margie Smith	<p>Please reopen schools for those students who choose to return. Data shows that reopening schools does not contribute to the spread of Covid 19; further, science shows how devastating to student, family, and community health it is to keep schools closed. Closing schools is one of the most misguided actions that I can imagine during this time, and I believe that in retrospect those who closed schools will appear misguided at best and mal-intentioned at worst. Don't be afraid to do the right thing for children here and now—provide CHOICE and the chance to attend school in person. The current options are woefully insufficient and shameful.</p>
Randy Gupta	<p>There's no doubt some kids are having a hard time. The choice exists at this minute for those kids to be on campus to receive help. The district has gone overboard recently to amend the results of previous surveys, add buttons to websites and communicate this. One wonders though with this district, is this a genuine effort to help the students or another political way to game the system, either to the county or appease the censored facebook group run by a Mr. Allman? (a separate legal issue). We hear "give us a choice!" You've been given choices for Q3 and updated choices since November. Rightfully you are concerned about your kids- contact the school. Posting online isn't going to help them! Our school has been responsive to our concerns. Those all over the news recently, where were you in 2017 when our community faced a rash of tragic student incidents? Where will you be AFTER the pandemic? Will you all be willing to stick up for all kids, or just athletes? Will you be willing to advocate for kids who don't look like you or have as much money as you? Schools are expected to be responsible for feeding kids, educating them and now for their mental health! The virus doesn't care that it's been 10 months. The selfish and irresponsible actions of a few have kept the rest of us where we are. Our daughter checked her friends on social media over the break and even after, they were all over the US and some out of the country. Accept the real science: kids transmit the virus, schools are proven in multiple studies across the world to help in preventing the spread by closing. Mr. Allman, the efficacy of the COVID testing is much more precise than your recent online "lesson." Is it good for anyone's health including parents to keep changing the schedules and opening/closing schemes? A "world class district" can't even commit to a schedule. When other districts have been much more diligent in planning, preparing and communicating, it's clear to see why WE are all having a hard time.</p>
Anonymous	<p>It is time to listen to logic and pay attention to data. There is enough data that shows that schools can reopen safely, and are reopening safely. Notably absent from the data is anything to support the continued closing of our schools. The closures were done out of an abundance of caution in an unknown situation. Now we know more, and we have the data to support safe reopening. Continued closure with no justification is doing real harm to our students, and is a shameful display of politics over scientific reasoning.</p>
Hedieh Naraghi-Smythe	<p>As we approach the new semester, our county remains in the purple tier and number of Covid cases surge. In just a week and a half after winter break, we have had 3 cases of positive cases at my school (where I teach from my classroom every single day). These are confirmed cases (there might be more); and the teachers exposed now have to quarantine. This is not the time to bring everyone back without a comprehensive safety plan. Our site administrators and teachers are most familiar with what needs to happen in a classroom in order to maximize academic integrity and safety; please collaborate with us and let us have input. Our SDUHSD Educational Services created a helpful presentation for the Board of Trustees regular meeting on December 15, which was included in the board packet, but unfortunately was not discussed in the meeting. I as a teacher was able to look at that presentation and I felt it showed careful planning. Please enable the Associate Superintendent of Educational Services to implement educational expertise in charting the next steps. Please follow the safety guidance by the CDPH, which states that schools that are not already open, cannot reopen until two weeks after the county has been out of the purple tier. This applies to our SDUHSD schools. We are at a point where we can get vaccinated in the near future and to act hastily and without a proper safety plan now is simply careless.</p>

Name	Comment
Carol Chang	<p>In regards to school reopening plans, I urge you to please follow public health guidelines. It is unlawful for schools to reopen unless we are two weeks out of the purple tier. Furthermore, the county recently updated the definition of "reopened" in a FAQ: " For example, a school serving 10 students for in-person instruction under the cohort guidance is not "open" for in-person instruction, since such operations are permitted regardless of the school reopening framework. If a middle or high school only had specialized groups of students back on campus, then according to the cohort guidance, the school was not considered to be 'open'."</p> <p>Furthermore, I urge you to please follow the CDPH guidance and the expert advice of scientists from the UCSD Return to Learn program. This would assure all parties involved that the district had done THE BEST JOB at safety.</p> <p>I also know how important the board members feel about transparency. To that end, in looking at the examples of our neighboring districts, both Poway Unified and San Marcos Unified have paused reopening until late February. In addition, PUSD informed the parents that there were 70 cases of covid in the first week of January alone. For SDUHSD, PLEASE have transparency and regularly publish the raw positive covid numbers among students and staff, and within a classroom. Parents must know these details.</p> <p>Allow teachers OPTIONS: Finally, along the lines of what Michael Allman said, "The District has plans to provide accommodations for teachers who have medical issues, or have family members at risk, or suffer from anxiety, or have child care issues. These teachers could teach from home as they do today."</p> <p>Both of my two kids teachers have demonstrated that they can teach quite well from home. Both of my kids have been learning (as I expect this will be exemplified in their passing of the AP exams in the spring).</p> <p>Please implement this plan and put it in writing to be transparent in all things.</p>
SDUHSD TEACHER	<p>Dear SDUHSD Board of Trustees, please provide clear guidelines and regulations of which teachers, and under what circumstances, may qualify for remote vs. onsite teaching options when the district is allowed to reopen in the red tier. Please include how long the accommodations will last. This has not been given to teachers as the board has previously stated. Additionally, please work collaboratively with the teachers and site administrators as in the phased plans of reopening, as we are the ones that have first hand experience with our campuses and classrooms, as it relates to adhering to public safety guidelines and the safety of our student community. Lastly, please remember that as we are not currently considered open, per CPHD, we cannot expand or phase reopening, beyond stable cohorts (defined as 14 or less students by CDPH), until the county is at least 2 weeks out of the purple tier. Let's keep everybody safe. Thank you.</p>
Ann Cerny	<p>Thank you for updating yourselves on local conditions and to what is currently being done to effectively support target populations even in this most dangerous phase. However, I'm confused by what exactly is being voted on here to "take action as necessary and direct staff accordingly regarding reopening."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just because SD County Public Health may not "approve or disapprove district plans," it does not give you permission to put the community in danger. It is too dangerous to broadly reopen while in the purple tier – period!</li> <li>• Is the public going to see the county's "list of questions and technical guidance" from County Public Health? Your assurance that "all of which SDUHSD was able to answer or enable" rings hollow – you have not earned that amount of trust. Will the district and SDFA collaborate to communicate the results of the site visits happening this week?</li> <li>• With CDPH guidelines yet to be released (at this writing), how can you take any "action" or "direct staff accordingly" tonight? Even if those guidelines are released by meeting time, it will not have been enough time for those guidelines to be discussed among all parties (collaboration) to make any actionable recommendations. Any "action" should be postponed to prevent jerking us back and forth like you've been doing.</li> <li>• Whatever vagueness that, unfortunately, is common in government guidelines doesn't change the fact that reopening in the purple tier is dangerous. Many talk of choice, but safety is of primary importance for a public institution. Many efforts to protect public safety were decried as overreach, but are now common sense, like seatbelts &amp; helmets. Many regulations were hotly debated but now ensure trust in our infrastructure like emissions &amp; water safety laws. We depend on our public entities to understand the circumstances and provide safe and effective services.</li> </ul> <p>As you discuss, be careful: Do not allow an in-depth discussion get reduced in the end to one simple yes/no question designed to corner you into a vote with far-reaching consequences.</p>
Oliver Charat-Collins	<p>Hello, my name is Oliver. We just started our baseball practices this week, and with the incorporation of effective safety measures, we were able to practice both safely and securely while maintaining a strong workout. My sport is outside, non-contact, and completely playable with the use of masks, and my coach worked tirelessly to ensure that we could return to the field and salvage the season that I fully expected to never occur. I count this as a big win for the district, and if we can continue with a strong distance-learning model that supports both teachers and students, I believe that this year can continue to grow. Not only does distance-learning work, but it protects our teachers and does not prohibit student-athletes like me the ability to practice with my team. My coach would not have been able to get us the go-ahead if he did not ensure that appropriate measures would be implemented to keep everyone safe. This year, despite all the negative points raised in past board meetings, has been an experience from which I have learned a lot, and if we can continue with the distance-learning while also allowing school activities that are outside and safe to begin, I feel that this year will not be lost, but rather be an opportunity to continue exploring the reaches of our strong education system.</p>



Name	Comment
Brad Silcox	SDUHSD schools are set up to provide the best education possible for students. The district administration and board has lost sight of that primary goal by continuing to acquiesce to the demands of a small, but vocal, group of teachers and a very demanding teacher's union. Our children need to be back in school learning on campus for not only for educational purposes but also for their emotional and physical well-being. Daily, there are new studies from across the globe showing the safety of being back on campus for in person learning. These studies are ignored by the SDFA who has put student learning at the bottom of their priority list and instead threatened the school district with a multi-million dollar lawsuit which would have potentially bankrupt the district. Is that the partner we want to educate our children? A group who sought to destroy and divide our district instead of working with administrators, health officials and parents to look out for the best interests of the primary stakeholder in education...the students. Please get all of the students back on campus as soon as possible, given the recent alarming studies showing the increased rate of teen depression and suicide resulting from an entire year online education, many of their lives literally depend on it.
Anonymous	As you consider and make plans for reopening schools, please collaborate with teachers and the on-site administrators. We understand the day-to-day interactions we have with students and with each other and how potential safety measures may or may not be effective and may or may not hinder instruction. We are committed to maintaining the academic integrity of our district and want to serve our students to the best of our ability. Also, within your plans, please provide guidelines in writing regarding types of and details of accommodations for teachers qualifying for continued remote teaching. Board members have expressed support of options for teachers, but we have yet to receive clear information in writing. Thank you.
Katie Martinez	<p>Our communities and county are nearing the height of this pandemic. As a district, we need to help lower the case rates to ensure that our ICUs and hospital staff can care for those who need medical help. This is not the right time to be opening our schools to large numbers of students. I am advocating that our district closely follow CDPH and county guidelines for reopening and do so in a slow, methodical manner so that our community is protected.</p> <p>SDUHSD is not currently cohorting students. We are only allowing very small special populations of students into our schools. This doesn't meet the CDPH guidelines for reopening schools. I do not believe that there is a way to cohort students unless we assign them to a single teacher who would keep them in the 1 room, all day, to do distance learning. As soon as students start going between teachers and classes, we have no longer met the CDPH criteria for reopening.</p> <p>Once schools do reopen to a lot of students, every student and staff member who has been in a class with a COVID positive person should be immediately notified. Not just those that are within 6 feet for 15 or more consecutive minutes. Support should also be provided for teachers who need to quarantine or stay home with their young children who are forced back into distance learning due to their schools/classes being closed.</p> <p>Now is NOT the time to greatly reopen the schools. Please continue along the path with distance learning with minimal numbers of students on our campuses in order to keep all students, staff, and the community safe.</p>
Anonymous	Mr. Allman and other board members have talked about allowing teachers the ability to continue teaching from their homes. However, this is all "talk" and has not been put in writing! Teachers deserve to have their rights written down and made transparent. Please allow any teacher who wants to continue to teach from home to do so and put in writing, with those teachers, exactly what that should look like and how long they will be allowed to do so. Be transparent in what would be needed to be allowed to teach from home, how long teachers will be allowed to work from home, if they will be allowed to return to the classroom when they, or their doctor, deems it safe to do so, etc.. Teachers are working tirelessly to support students right now and deserve to be supported back.
Lisa Fitzpatrick	<p>Why do we not have any clear sense of the future in this district? We need to face the facts, this is on Haley, the Board and constant politics. The same Superintendent has created havoc in every previous district- maybe that's why none of them are specified on the SDUHSD website. Groups met to "plan" all last summer and nothing came of it. Dr. Haley started up another committee in October- only to disband it with no real results. It's pointless to argue about how long this has taken, the virus is worse now in SD than ever.</p> <p>Ask yourself this question- Why has this district's leadership been so bad? Why have other districts worked with diverse groups to move forward and have realistic plans with specific timelines in place? Why is the communication in this district always full of double talk- there's never a definite answer. This district is a case study in poor leadership- if everyone is fighting amongst each other, we don't see the real problem. Google Haley-look up: Discrimination of Blind School Board Member, lack of safety drills, legal fees CRPSD, gas leaks, school board recalls, St.Helena legal fees, grading scandals, students protesting elections, then you will understand why our once proud district is off the tracks without any sense of the future.</p>
Erika Daniels	Please open schools to in-person instruction. There are no scientific studies that support continued school closures, and numerous ones advocating for schools to re-open. We need to reframe the current narrative because the goal cannot be solely about eradicating covid-19. This is not an attainable goal. People who want the district to provide a choice between in-person learning and distance learning are not uncaring about teachers' safety. The reality is that teaching is an in-person profession, and the damage being done to our youth by keeping them out of school is tremendous.
Alison Tickle	Please heed the health warnings and our district experts-Bryan Marcus, Mark Miller, and site administrators-when it comes to when AND how to open. It needs to be safe, and it needs to be gradual so that we can learn what is working and what isn't before expanding. It is critical that we start with the one day a week first, especially with as many cases as there has been. Also, there must be a policy IN WRITING to provide for teachers who need to teach from home and teachers who must quarantine and who have children that must quarantine. Also, we need the Merv 13 filters so that the ventilation is safe and effective. It is essential for us to remain in a distance learning model as work towards the goal of bringing kids back to campus in a safe way. Several students still have chrome books that kick them out anytime they open a new window. We need to get fully functioning devices to our students.

Name	Comment
Anonymous	Thank you board of directors, superintendent, administrators, teachers and classified staff for your continued dedication and hard work. This is such a polarizing issue and a complete nightmare to tackle. Both sides are able to find "studies" that support their views & this continues to be a never ending cycle. I ask that you please come together and try as best as you can to drown out all noise and do what you feel is the best and safest for our community. Can we come up with some sort of compromise and stick to it? The back and forth is draining for all involved. Obviously 5 days a week reopen is a bit aggressive given our current rates and lack of hospital beds. Perhaps once rates drop or staff is vaccinated then proceed? In the meantime the 1 day a week option with extra curricular activities? Thank you again for all you do.
Michele Macosky	I urge the Board to follow the law, listen to scientists, keep our community safe, & protect the foundation of our schools – its teachers & academics. CDPH requires that districts like ours, where schools have not opened, must not open until two weeks out of purple tier. It's not only common sense, it's the law. Don't make CTA have to litigate. Do your job and follow public health guidance. Next, listen to scientists regarding when & how to open. You have top tier resources: Kim Prather, Chip Schooley, the entire UCSD Return to Learn team. Be responsible & consult the experts so we return safely & successfully. Protect our award-winning academics by supporting & retaining our dedicated teachers. Trustee Allman said: "The District has plans to provide accommodations for teachers who have medical issues, or have family members at risk, or suffer from anxiety, or have child care issues. These teachers could teach from home as they do today . . ." If Trustee Allman spoke truthfully, then put this in writing from HR and stop the cruel uncertainty for teachers. Finally, collaborate & listen to administrators & teachers regarding a plan. Instead of surprising us at board meetings by submitting and voting on unvetted, half-baked proposals that we've never seen before, let's work together. Let's hear the well-planned presentation by SDUHSD Educational Services from the Dec board packet that was not discussed by the Board but was thoughtfully socialized through principal coffees, multiple communications and meetings. Stop making radical, unsustainable proposals to reopen out of nowhere. The sudden, fundamental policy shifts (like the 5 day per week plan) are giving everyone whiplash. Instead, take time to thoughtfully work with administration employees & teachers, to digest comments and feedback from stakeholders, and create a thoughtful, sustainable plan that retains flexibility to respond to community conditions.
Anonymous	I am a sophomore at TPHS. Since March I am waiting to be back in school and I was so happy when I heard we will be back 1 day per week after the winter break and then even more for the second semester. That was good news after waiting for such a long time. But so disappointing that all that got cancelled. I really miss my friends and I would love to meet my teachers in person. I will go back one day per week to learn from school after our finals and I hope that I can be with some of my friends and teachers. DL does not work well for me and sometimes it is really frustrating to sit on my desk every day all by myself. If we are not going back to school I will go to a private school next school year, which would be really sad, because I love TP.
Anonymous	I am a junior at TPHS. When we went into shutdown in March we were told that we need to help flatten the curve and that we would be back in school as soon as possible. This never happened and I am really sick of learning from my screen and missing out on so much of my junior year. Right now I can not imagine being back in school, because I got disappointed so many times, when dates were announced and then cancelled again. I also think it is super unfair, that my younger sister is back in school full time and that my friends who are in other schools are allowed to be back on campus. Why are only SDUHSD students requested to stay home and flatten the curve?
Anonymous	I would like to request the board to expedite the re-opening of the High schools. Data coming out from other schools that have been open show that schools are not super spreaders. In addition schools like for schools like CCA only 30% have opted to come back - so this should amount to a very small class size which should further dispel concerns of public Schools being Unsafe due to size. In addition why are the class periods only 70% of the normal class periods . Is this cohort going to learn only 70% of the material? Other public schools (poway) are teaching to the full regular period. I have one Child in private school and another at CCA and I can tell the gap between those privileged to go to private and those at public is just widening both emotionally and academically with every week of school closure. This is a disservice to the students in this district . I would request that the teachers , board and unions make student centric decisions and do everything needed to provide technology such as swivel ( to service students who opted distance learning) Air filters etc to serve all parties involved
Erin Morris	Thank you for thinking outside the box and offering students a chance to be on campus 1 day a week. Although not ideal, I appreciate the work put in to make it happen. I have twin daughters who are freshman this year at LCC. They have not significantly suffered academically because they are very self driven. They do say it is harder in some ways and easier in others. They do not feel that they are learning near as much as they could and feel they will be further behind especially in Spanish. Their main struggle is the lack of hope after so many changes and promises unkept. We as a family are very safe in the community and recognize that changes have had to be made through this pandemic but the lack of transparency, forward thinking and planning has been very difficult to swallow. They need hope. They need something to look forward to. They need to know that their teachers and the adults that are making these decisions have a clear desire to return to normal. My one daughter who suffers from anxiety and depression says the ups and downs have left her with no hope. It is a daily emotional struggle to get out of bed and feel motivated. Please work to offer a choice to those students and teachers who want to return. I am a teacher in another district using a hybrid model and I know this does not have to be a binary decision.
Susanne Klas	10 months in and we still don't have a pathway to reopen. A lot of students are suffering and there is no hope for them to return to the classroom anytime soon. I am disappointed about the obvious unwillingness of our superintendent and the teachers' union to cooperate for the sake of our students. I am disappointed by the lack of leadership, creativity, communication and accountability of this school district. In the spring DMUSD posed a simple question "What do we need to do to reopen schools?" To find a solution for a school to reopen in a pandemic is certainly hard work, but it can be done successfully as other school districts in our area have proven. Schools seem to be the safest place for our students (and probably also for our teachers), since they provide a controlled environment where mask wearing and social distancing can be enforced. I don't expect schools to reopen full time now. But I expect our school district to finally put our students FIRST and give those who want and need to learn in a classroom a CHOICE.
Mark Schneyer	Please find a way to open schools this year. For the kids that are having trouble with distance learning, an entire school year is on the verge of being lost. The Administration and Teachers should come together to find a way to have in person teaching (not in person distance learning) for the students who want this option. The school safety plan provides a safer environment than the surrounding community, and teachers and staff that have pre-existing conditions should be allowed to work from home. Students who want to remain in distance learning, should be allowed to do so. Please figure this out. Otherwise, you will be failing to meet the educational and mental health needs of 50% of the students.

Name	Comment
Ruth Baurle	<p>Parents have had enough pathetic stall tactics and excuses for why we can't open our campuses. We are failing our kids...miserably. We are OPEN and have been since two weeks into the red tier last fall. We've been slowly expanding under that directive. Since their lawsuit did not name ALL our campuses, the SDFA knows it too. They threatened our district's progress based on a subjective definition of "open." What lesson is this organization of "educators" teaching our kids? To be petty, litigious and bully until you get your way? Put yourself in the shoes of our students, especially our seniors: your friend next door is back on his campus, your Texas cousins are going to football games and homecoming, your younger sibling is in class several days a week...but not you. Your senior year is being stolen because the adults in leadership positions won't stand up for you. They blame each other, employ stall tactics, make promises they don't keep and are actually just waiting for you to give up and make their lives easier. Where are the voices of all these teachers who keep telling you they want to be back on campus? Why won't they speak on your behalf? Because they are worried about union repercussions and their own well being, not about what's best for you. In fact, it doesn't feel like the adults are sacrificing ANYTHING because it's apparently all on you to protect your community. BTW, it's no big deal to give up your one opportunity to be a senior. You'll get over it. Even though the facts ALL point to schools being safe and your teachers have a CHOICE to stay home, it doesn't matter. Parents who want their kids to stay in DL don't want you to have the CHOICE to return to campus because their kids might be left out. They want to make the choice for you and your family. They really just want your voices silenced. But the board can vote to give you a choice. Choice gives everyone the ability to pick what is right for them. Board members, please don't force our kids to give up hope. Give them a choice. Expand our reopening to in person instruction for ALL students.</p>
Christian Klas	<p>As school districts around the country have brought students and teachers safely back on campus it's about time you provide the same opportunities for our students. As infection rates in San Diego county are rising despite the fact that a majority of our high school students are still remote it's about time we try something new and follow the lead of experts who suggest that the safest and best controlled environment for students is their school, where safety measures can be enforced and supervised. How can this school district tolerate that our students bear a greater share of the burden of the virus than students from other parts of the country or students who live next door but have the privilege to attend private schools? The obvious unwillingness of the teachers' union and the school district to cooperate and to put our students first is unacceptable. You need to take your responsibility for the education and the well being of our students seriously and give those students and teacher who want to return to the classroom an opportunity to do this. Our students need hope and a CHOICE.</p>
Adam Fischer	<p>Please make sure that any reopening plan is developed collaboratively and has broad support, as opposed to the battles that have been taking place, especially between the Board and teachers. We should all work together on ensuring we have the best and most sustainable plan. Specifically, there should be 4 main parts to any plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Follow public health rules and expert recommendations as to when it is legal and safe to reopen. Specifically: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. State CDPH rules, as now pointed out by San Diego county, clearly state that SDUHSD school have not yet opened, and therefore cannot reopen until San Diego County has been out of the purple tier for 14 days. San Diego's current case rate, at 69.8, is currently around *10 times* the threshold for the purple tier.</li> <li>b. UCSD recommendations, based on experts from their Return to Learn program, further reinforce the criteria for when it is safe to reopen, including fewer than 7 outbreaks over a 7-day period (the county is currently at 48).</li> </ol> </li> <li>2) Allow teachers an option to telework. Teachers are showing they can teach remotely, it is equitable, it maintains the high educational quality for students, and it reduces substitute teaching needs. Trustees Allman and Muir have both publicly stated their support for allowing teachers to telework. It should be agreed to by the Board and district and put in writing.</li> <li>3) Follow science-based best practices. Listen to experts such as Kim Prather and others at UCSD, and ensure there is proper ventilation and filtration, regular testing, sufficient distancing, and other safeguards.</li> <li>4) Listen to the educational experts. SDUHSD administrators and teachers are most familiar with and have the best situational understanding of what needs to happen in a classroom in order to maximize academic integrity and safety; collaborate with them and let them drive the plan. Ensure there is academic equity and all students are offered the same quality of education and attention from teachers, whether remote or in-person. There was a good framework for this in the Dec. 15 meeting materials.</li> </ol>
Teacher SDUHSD	<p>Teachers do NOT have written documentation of any HR information regarding quarantine days, leave guidelines, sick days, etc. We are asking the board to please provide IN WRITING an official document detailing the guidelines and regulations of who and how a teacher qualifies for remote vs. onsite teaching options when the district is allowed to reopen in the red tier. Please include how long the accommodations will last and the terms of the agreement. Please include information regarding sick days/ quarantine days/remote teaching options when exposed to the virus. Why have we not been provided the updated Covid19 protections information? None of this has not been given to teachers as the board has previously stated in every meeting. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>The board needs to utilize the amazing principals and teachers and their knowledge of their own schools. SDUHSD administrators and teachers are most familiar with and have the best situational understanding of what needs to happen in a classroom in order to maximize academic integrity and safety; collaborate with them and let them drive the plan.</p>
Cheryl Dunbar	<p>I am so disappointed to see our students continually being put last. Day after day, as adult decision-makers argue and waste time, our kids are missing out. These teenage milestones only happen once in a lifetime. They can't get this time back. These are experiences that they will never have. And yet, you continue to waste time arguing over details. How is it that multiple schools around us have successfully opened for learning on campus, when our district still hasn't gotten it together? My niece and nephew have been in a public high school classroom since October, and they live only 30 minutes up the road. This is embarrassing to say the least. While I do appreciate our schools sites accommodating students to distance learn on campus this week, and in some instances teachers even inviting them into classrooms, this does NOT fix our problem. I encourage you to call a special board meeting next week and vote on getting our kids back on campus starting in February. It's been almost a year that they have spent sitting in their rooms, watching their teacher on a screen. This is not learning. In my eyes, you have failed as leaders.</p>

Name	Comment
Ying Yang	I'm a concerned parent of a CCA 12th Grader and CVMS 7th Grader. NBC News just reported on 1/12 that the Covid hospitalization rate for children went up 800 percent in six months and the NBC Nightly News featured a sixteen-year-old who had to be flown to a hospital by a helicopter. Yes, children can be severely sick after contracting COVID, and I wish no children in our district will suffer because they couldn't find ICU beds since we are in the purple tier. Nevertheless, I remain optimistic as Dr. Fauci has said that most of the Americans can be vaccinated in April, and hope our teachers may be inoculated much sooner. I agree that it would be prudent for our district to phase re-opening after the county has been out of the purple tier for two weeks or after our teachers are inoculated with the vaccine. It is a big relief for us parents and students to learn that our district did not have to lose 60 teachers on January 4th. It is also remarkable that the site administrators were able to quickly implement plan to allow more priority students to study onsite. Thank the board for listening to parents' concerns and I implore the district continue to work with site administrators and teachers' union to collaboratively develop a viable and safe reopening plan.
Anonymous	I am a concerned parent and want to encourage the Board to not open until local COVID conditions have improved and preferably after vaccinations are administered to staff and students.
Cindi Schildhouse	Hello, Thank you for taking the time to read my comments. I would like to request that the School Board and District agree to Distance Learning through quarter 3 (Q3). I understand we are all in very different places and we all have very different perspectives, but we cannot dispute the facts that our community & region are in the worst position of the pandemic. Please commit to Distance Learning through quarter 3 to allow families and teachers to plan for the most successful quarter possible. Please allow our staff to focus their time and energy into supporting students, focusing preparation for AP testing & IB testing, producing a vaccination plan, planning for quarter 4, and planning for next year. Please stop with the completely unnecessary blaming, fighting, and finger pointing and listen to what teachers have been saying for months. Please move beyond the headlines to understand the actual constraints that we have as we move towards reopening. Compare the class sizes, classroom sizes, and grade banding of schools in and out of our district. Look into the master schedules and changes that were made to accommodate the potential return for students in other districts. Once you dig in and understand that the class sizes in most other schools are smaller than ours (with some capped just above half of our average), most classroom sizes are comparable, and there is much more grade banding (where all students take set classes) you start to see some of the obstacles we have to address. If you keep digging you will find that some schools cancelled electives and reduced schedules to reduce overall class sizes, other schools adjusted student schedules to create cohorting groups, others built DL schools for the year and possible in person schools for the year. Yes, in a land of lollipops, unicorns and unlimited funding we could overcome all of these obstacles, but we are here in the midst of a pandemic.
Anonymous	What do teachers need in order for them to be willing to report to work?! feel as though parents and students have been left in the dark not knowing when it is safe enough for our teachers to come to school and teach in person. Do they want all the students to be vaccinated? For those of us who are losing hope in the SDUHSD and looking for private schools, it would be nice to know what criteria teachers are asking for. What would make our schools "safe enough" for them to return? I feel as though our schools will not re-open until January 2022...Stories keep changing and we are tired of waiting. Schools have been open in Florida and Texas where the cases are just as high as California yet our schools are closed.  At a previous board meeting, there was a presentation of an informal survey conducted by some students where it showed something like 75% of students didn't want to go to school. That was a flawed and biased survey - my kids were never asked to participate in it, nor their friends. If students were given a choice of going to school in-person in a hybrid model like Cathedral, I am certain a majority of them would choose to go. Too bad the SDUHSD and the Union aren't willing to do that and keep delaying re-opening at all cost.
Gabriel Roberts	Learning at home is not working for me. This is my junior year so it is my most important academic year. I am struggling with the work and miserable without social interactions. Please use your power to reopen schools so that students can be on campus. Students really need your help.
Dale Simpson	I am in middle school and am so sad. Last March you told us that we would only be closed for 2 weeks, and now it is almost a year. I am having trouble with the work and miss my friends and teachers so much. I see my teachers all around town so why can't we go to school? Please let us go back to school.
Cari McClemons	I plead you consider ALL the students in your decisions. There is a large group that distance learning is NOT working for. These kids are being ignored. They need in person learning with a teacher. For 10 months, those against returning have been heard and blocked my families choice. My students have not been supported, educated or voices heard nor have they had a choice. No one has asked my kids to find out what they want. There is robust data showing the harm and long term damage from the distance learning emotionally, longevity and education. The Seniors are losing valuable time and learning opportunities they will never get back. Life defining moments. Those leaving the state to pursue college will be behind their peers. DL was a short term solution not a long term education plan. Be courageous and make decisions for the betterment of ALL our students, not just maintaining the status quo because of pressure. Look across at schools in Orange County & nationally that have achieved our goal of returning students to the classroom and mitigating risks. You were elected to represent the community and put our students education and their futures first. Is DL or letting kids to sit on campus for DL really the best we can do? Are the policies you are choosing giving all students the support needed for achievement of goals? Can we really say that kids met their educational goals of a lab based science class without stepping in a lab or a shop class like welding? We have heard "we know it's not ideal" but this is how we are doing it. Settling for ok is not an option. Our kids are asked to be resilient and adaptable every day. The district needs to be adaptable and find a way to get our students on campus to be engaged in education in a meaningful way now. The clock is ticking. As it is going, we are saying 2 years of HS is good for graduation and you don't need middle school. The board's lack of consistent and cohesive decisions have created a hopelessness & apathy in many kids. Be a leader who makes decisions for the betterment of ALL the students.
Cindy Burns	My daughter was one of the many that was supposed to start back one day a week this week. However when we learned that this would not be "in person" as it was earlier defined as with the teacher live and students set up to succeed in a normal learning environment we decided that was not what we had agreed to. The board must hold teachers accountable to be in their classroom, get vaccinated as they are earmarked to as the 1B group and return to in classroom learning.

Name	Comment
Anonymous	<p>Failure to thrive. The studies that René Spitz conducted in the 1940s were the first to show more systematically that social interactions with other humans are essential for children’s development. Our teenagers are in a situation where they cannot thrive because they’ve been cut off from their peers and teachers. Let them get together at schools, better than they are now (where they aren’t allowed to be with friends or peers of the same age) so they can begin interacting with their peers.</p> <p>Who set this narrative anyway of “go to school and there will be deaths, or stay safely at home?” What a fallacy.</p> <p>Our family respects that Covid is real. We see it can be devastating for some. But just like in a hospital, where nurses and doctors are exposed to these struggling Covid patients, healthy people can take precautions to be safe and not carry the virus. We can’t live our lives in a protective bubble with fake virtual interactions. Our youth who are in developmental stages of learning need to experience LIFE and other humans.</p> <p>We are closing in on one year of this district refusing to let our youth play sports or go to school. There needs to be a plan on the table to care about our youth, emotionally and physically – without sending them off to “virtual safe spaces” or “online emotional support. To thrive, they need real-life HUMANS.</p>
Heather Dugdale	<p>The path to re-opening our schools is fairly straightforward and I am hopeful that following the lead of Districts all around us, including Poway and San Marcos, our School Board:</p> <p>Follows public health guidelines and does not re-open our campuses to the broader population of students until we are at least two weeks out of the purple tier. Our administrators have implemented many layers of protective measures for those students who require and/or have requested special accommodations to be on our campuses. Allow those to stabilize.</p> <p>Once we are out of the purple tier - Follow science-based best practices. Dr. Kimberly Prather and experts with UCSD's Return to Learn program have been extraordinarily generous in providing expert advice and recommendations that include ensuring that in all of our classrooms we have at least 6 air exchanges per hour. According to Dr. Prather these are best accomplished with MERV 13 air filters, but if those are not feasible, additional HEPA filtration is required and should be pursued.</p> <p>Follow the educational expertise and recommendations of our very seasoned educators and implement the graduated 1 day/week return plan that was part of the proposed (but never spoken of publicly) presentation on December 15th.</p> <p>Provide in writing the accommodations/"choice" to telework that at least one of you continuously promotes on social media. That "choice" keeps everyone safe, especially those most at risk.</p> <p>And finally - Be judicious about the use of extremely expensive substitute teachers who are currently, on my dime, essentially babysitting small numbers of students in the outdoor spaces on our campuses. Preferably you would reduce this reimbursement to a level that is more closely aligned with industry standard so as to disincentivize abuse of that system.</p> <p>Be gracious, supportive and kind to our teachers, classified staff and administrators. The whiplash that you put our students and families through is worse for them as they constantly pivot. They deserve our gratitude.</p>
Robin Cull	<p>Please allow students to return to campus for 2nd semester and do so without the restriction of attending based on days assigned by their last name. Socialization with their peers is so vital to their mental and emotional well being. We can do this!! The district is able to put together a safe reopening plan for all students and teachers and we need to start moving in that direction.</p>
Lori Larocque	<p>Despite our community color-coded status, it is time to properly and safely reopen the schools while giving teachers and students a choice. People who talk about it not being safe now were saying the same thing in September when SD was in the red tier and our school district community had very low case rates. This is suspect to me wondering what the motives are behind the political curtain. In any event, Distance learning was never intended to be a long-term solution to a public health emergency. The detrimental and long-lasting effects, socially, emotionally, academically and physically far outweigh any risks that the students and their families would be willing to take to come back on campus. Schools are simply not vectors for community spread. Schools are safe to reopen and it’s long overdue that we implement what has been proposed and delayed on multiple occasions. In other school districts around CA and the country, it is clear there is a greater adherence to protocols in schools because it is a controlled, safe and supervised environment. In my opinion and others who are likeminded, It is disgraceful that SDFa has been blockading these efforts . I’m certain that there are teachers in our district that absolutely want to return to the classroom but cannot speak out against the aggressive position the SDFa has taken. For those teachers - we stand with you and we know these are challenging times. Please understand that parents care about teachers and our plan is about creating options for everyone’s well being, students included and at the forefront of our pleas.</p> <p>I would respectfully ask the board and superintendent to support a choice for students, and compassionate and flexible leave policies for teachers and staff.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Please let the students and teachers who want to return to campus, return to campus! Please let teachers and students who want to stay at home, stay at home! Please share with all SDUHSD families what the plan is to reopen our schools. Please share what opposition there is to opening schools now vs. back in August, September and October. Please find out what the teachers union demands are and share them publicly. If the district has done everything they need to do to open safely, then open our schools! Decide now what metrics are needed to open, be ready to go and open ASAP. This surge will be over by the first week of February. Please be ready to open and hit the ground running!</p>

Name	Comment
Karri Smith	<p>SDUHSD was finally on the right path and putting students first by offering them a choice for learning. Choice gave HOPE to many students that are struggling whether it be academically, emotionally, mentally, socially and physically especially for those involved in school sports. And just a quickly as it came, it was taken away like many decisions over the past five months.</p> <p>As much as we are told this is an issue about safety in our district, it's hard to ignore when we are seeing this same situation playing out in state after state. Our first rally to reopen was September 24th and we asked for a plan - a path to reopen our schools. We sent a letter to Duncan Brown asking how we can help. An expanded reopening committee was formed with over 54 people. Almost five months later, we still are playing a shell game of trying to figure out what it will take to reopen.</p> <p>This continuous back and forth decision making which affects our kids is downright cruel. Stop telling us why our students cannot attend in person learning on campus and start figuring out how to make it happen. The political power plays at their expense is wrong and shameful.</p> <p>Open up our schools. Let teachers who have a medically validated reason teach from home with a proctor in the classroom. Let families make their own individual choices about attending in person learning. If private schools right next door and public schools both in and out of state figured it out, what is stopping SDUHSD? Stop making a mockery of our district and do the right thing and open our schools to choice.</p>
Dr. Kimberly Prather	<p>I am Distinguished Professor and Chair in Atmospheric Chemistry at UC San Diego and have advised the CDC, Dr. Anthony Fauci, and the Biden task force on the importance of airborne spread of COVID-19. Though SDUHSD has not formally retained me nor UC San Diego to advise on your safety plans, I am a community member and am concerned about your reopening plans. Reopening schools while we are in the purple tier would be irresponsible, putting the school and local community at serious risk while likely worsening the pandemic. The new, more transmissible variant has been shown to have a more negative impact on individuals below age 20. As shown elsewhere, reopening schools leads to more outbreaks in the community. Community transmission must have an Rt of &lt;1 with a minimum number of cases before schools can safely reopen and remain open. A recent study in Nature studied &gt;200 countries and showed that among all interventions, closing educational institutions was the 2nd most effective in reducing cases and deaths. Another shows a 60% reduction in COVID-19 cases and mortality associated with school closures.</p> <p>It will be possible to reopen safely once community numbers become much lower. Ask SD Unified for a copy of their extensive reopening plan so you won't have to start from scratch. It has been heavily vetted by scientists and medical doctors. Fresh air exchanges &gt;6 ACH, installation of MERV 13 filtration in HVAC systems, and supplementing with an adequate number of properly sized standalone HEPA units are examples of key controls that are not included in your current plan. Further, masks -- not face shields alone or single layer face coverings -- must be worn at all times indoors. Eating (requires mask removal) must be done outside. Distancing indoors and outdoors remains critical with 6 ft the absolute minimum. A well articulated regular testing and tracing plan must be put in place for all students and teachers.</p> <p>With vaccines, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Making these improvements now will have long term positive impacts on health and development.</p>
Madeleine Moon	<p>Please follow public health guidelines: We are an excellent school district. We are top in the county and state. Please follow the public health guidelines and make our safety standards top in the county as well.</p> <p>Please follow science-based best practices: Our district students regularly place high on math and science competitions. Let's keep in this line and follow the best science-based practices when it comes to reopening to ensure the safety of all who will be on campus. Let us listen to the experts at UCSD Return to Learn, the leading experts and faculty members at this nationally ranked research university.</p> <p>Please give teachers a CHOICE to teach from home: Students have a choice to remain in DL or to come back to in-person learning. As trustee Michael Allman asserted in December, and trustee Muir also articulated, please make plans to provide accommodations for teachers who cannot return due to circumstances. Please assure them in writing. My teachers have already been doing a superb job teaching remotely. I am definitely learning as exemplified in my performance on the practice AP exam questions. Teachers have gone above and beyond, responding to emails with greater frequency than ever before. I already lost my AP Spanish teacher due to covid, I do not want to lose another valuable teacher. Please ensure their safety and give them a CHOICE.</p>
Cristina Grosse	<p>The lack of accountability and leadership is unbelievable, ten months in and still no pathway to reopen ..no clear answers on what it will take for the teachers to agree to come back on campus ..why are you still not putting students first and give them a choice..the damage is done..so disappointed</p>
Anonymous	<p>I can't believe that we are still debating this issue. Right now SD is experiencing a horrific surge in COVID19 with a new more transmissible strain. Poway, SD Unified are all delaying - as are Escondido charter schools- and they DO NOT even have a teacher's union. The opposing side cites studies denying student transmission-(true - possibly in elementary school where kids are vigilant rule followers and are in one class), but there are many studies saying that high schools ARE a source of spread. There are studies coming out of the UK, John Hopkins, and studies of Florida schools to name a few. PLEASE base reopening on true science and data. Our student's education is suffering enough. Haphazard plans are going to make it even worse. Struggling students should be accommodated, but the community at large needs to be protected. Many of the same families encouraging full return are the same families that will be running off to Mammoth during semester break. (Another terrible time to resume right after all of these families travel. Maybe they should have to sign something swearing that they won't be going anywhere and that their kids won't be socializing during the break). These same families claim kids are getting together anyway etc. Guess what- many families that take this virus seriously and follow science ARE NOT TRAVELING or LETTING OUR KIDS GET TOGETHER IN GROUPS. Up til now it appears our district has not made adequate plans, nor followed adequate safety protocols (regarding ventilation, distancing, making the staff feel safe). This board repeatedly broke county guidelines by meeting in person, yet we are supposed to believe that safety is your main concern? We are teaching our kids resilience, compassion, caring about the "other", especially our teachers, those in multigenerational homes, and our frontline workers.</p>

Name	Comment
Anonymous	<p>We moved to this school district due to its stellar reputation. SDUHSD calls itself world class, engaged - inspired - prepared. During this pandemic this district did not live up to its reputation at all. While other school districts around us have successfully and safely brought students back on campus or have at least a confirmed reopening date, our students are still waiting for even a small step towards being back on campus. We don't see any serious attempt to find solutions for our students. We only see that SDUHSD gives in to the reckless actions of the teachers' union again and again and accepting that they are throwing one obstacle after the other in our way whenever we get closer to being back in school. How can you allow the teachers' union to hold 50% of our students and probably about 70% of our teachers - all those who wish to be back in school and we heard from a lot of them ! - hostage without requesting a list of safety protocols or measurements that need to be put in place before the teachers are allowed back in school?</p> <p>How can you only serve those in our school community who do not want to return to campus while the core of any school district should be campus life and in person learning? You could easily serve all in our school community by giving your students and teachers a CHOICE.</p> <p>How come our students are not allowed to be back on THEIR campus, paid for by THEIR parents' taxes (!), because the teachers' union doesn't want this? Whose campus is it? Why not allow the students to be back while teachers continue to teach from home? At least you could save a lot of students from depression, isolation and frustration after spending 10 months in front of their screens.</p> <p>It is completely disappointing that our school district does not listen to those students who are sacrificing a lot and suffering even more under the circumstances. It's irresponsible to accept that our students will be the collateral damage of this health crisis living with the consequences for the rest of their lives. You have the responsibility to do the right thing now.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Thank you all for your leadership. Please work collaboratively with teachers, staff, and administrators, deferring the plan-making to those with knowledge of what will actually work on our campuses safely within the clear public health guidelines. Please follow all protocols as strictly as possible. Do everything you can to preserve and support the amazing teachers that educate our students and make our district what it is. Please continue to prioritize the quality of education and equity for all students.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I encourage the Board and Administration to continue to take a cautious approach to re-opening our schools in light of COVID 19 and the seriousness of this disease. Please continue to support and listen to our teachers who are concerned about an ill-advised rush to return to physical classrooms without adequate testing or preparation. I am extremely concerned that the vocal minority pushing for a return to in person school has now adopted an anti-teacher stance which will never work out well for our schools or our students (or our property values). Please invest and take the time to implement rigorous COVID testing and hygiene (air cleaning/filtration, PPE, etc.) before returning to in person classes, there are other school districts in the county who have created robust plans we can look to as examples. Instead of focusing on individual personal choice, we must all understand that we are a community! This is a chance for us to show our kids how to weather a challenge, learn from it and come out better on the other side.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Why would you open now? That makes zero sense. Vaccines are just about here. The virus is at its peak. We just had 4500 cases in San Diego in one day this week. 40 people died in San Diego yesterday. At least one site staff has already passed it around to each other with only a few groups on campus. The studies that show that schools are low-risk only prove that for younger grades and when community transmission is low. We are the opposite of that. High school with some of the highest community transmission in the world right now. If any schools internationally should wait it out, it's ours. We also don't have quality testing in place, and a literal expert who has approved other districts' plans in San Diego thought ours was so irresponsible/dangerous she took to Twitter to call us out. There's also a lot of emerging research on the long-term damage to the heart in student athletes so it's not harmless to the students even if they are unlikely to die. We do need to consider mental health, but teen suicides in San Diego are down this year. That said, teen mental health has been on the decline for years and after what they've been through we definitely need to address this directly. But rushing to open right before vaccines become widely available is absurd. There is a greater threat to teen mental health is if they pass the virus along to someone who becomes very sick or dies. The guilt will be intolerable if it's someone they care about. And since we do need to keep courses online for those who are reading the science and choose to keep their kids home equitable, it will just weaken the quality of everyone's education. Teachers have limited bandwidth. And, in keeping an eye on the long-term direction of this district, already some of the best teachers in our district have left the profession entirely, some are on leave, some are currently re-training or sending out resumes. We won't be the top district in San Diego if we continue to blame our teachers for the adverse effects of this virus and the lack of planning far above their pay grade.</p>
G Tsai	<p>Why is this district is so far behind other districts? October 14th, we were told, that the district had met with Dr. Coleman, Dr. Ray and advisors to SD County Public health officer, Gary Johnston and Dr. Wooten. Dr. Haley said at that meeting that "all classrooms are ready to go." Now we are told that the district is "continuing to upgrade MERV filtration and purchasing additional HEPA filters for deployment." So what changed? Were you not actually ready to open in November? Other districts have had this implemented for months. This district appears to be deceptive at every turn, no wonder why you were sued. You state how safe your plan is but it was never really reviewed by the county- only now is the county doing site visits? What changed? Why does Dr. Kim Prather of UCSD refer to your class seating with one meter as practical as "crazy," yet you use her name as though you have consulted with her. Shame on you and shame on us for paying for \$5 million dollars in chromebooks- where are they? Why can't anyone tell us what the schedule will be? This is our money- not yours.</p>
Richard Moon	<p>Current CDPH guidance states that schools that are not already open cannot reopen until two weeks in at least the red tier. I trust that the district will follow the CDPH guidelines.</p> <p>I trust that SDUHSD will follow the expert advice of world renowned scientists from the nationally ranked university, UCSD, in particular the UCSD Return to Learn experts. It is imperative to have infectious disease experts weigh in on such important decisions. Please gather the expertise of epidemiologist Dr. Deepti Gurdasani, and pediatric infectious disease specialist at Rady, Dr. Mark Sawyer.</p> <p>In addition, have robust contract tracing and notification in place to mitigate a mid-semester shut-down by the county.</p> <p>Finally, I urge you to give teachers the option to work from home, and have it in writing. Teachers have demonstrated the ability to work successfully from home and to be putting in an enormous effort. The frequency of communication between our children and the teachers have noticeably ramped up during distance learning. Furthermore, our children have been learning quite effectively, and I would like this to continue.</p>

Name	Comment
Brock Davies	<p>The best part of school, the part that most kids look forward to, no longer exists. Learning by yourself in your bedroom is depressing and isolating. It's very hard to stay motivated. Thankfully I have coaches that are making an effort to get us together for practices. I'm grateful for that. Our coaches are doing everything they can to give us some kind of high school experience this year. There's a lot of kids that don't have that though.</p> <p>As a senior, I feel like I have to speak up. What is supposed to be the best and most memorable year of high school doesn't exist for us. We aren't getting to experience any of it. I haven't gotten to play a single down of football this season. Why is it safe for the other states to go back but not safe for us? It seems like the adults in charge in other places are putting kids first and they made it happen. Why isn't that happening here in our district? What the adult decision makers fail to understand is that kids, especially seniors, are missing out on opportunities that only happen once in a lifetime. You only get one senior year. There is no way to get it back. We are missing huge milestones in our life. The ones who are telling us to be resilient aren't missing out on this once in a lifetime experience. It might be just a year to them....but to us it's our one and only senior year. They say we are in this together, but we are not. We are the ones who are missing out. I'm just asking for a choice. Kids can choose to stay home. Teachers can choose to stay home. Im asking for the choice to get on campus and experience, at best, the few months that I have left of my senior year.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am a 9th grader at Torrey Pines High School and so far I have been very disappointed that we have not be able to go back to campus and learn in our teachers classrooms. I support reopening the school starting 3rd quarter so that we do not miss out on any more learning than we already have so far this year. I understand that there will be risks going back to school, but studies from the government and health organizations say that it is safe to go back even in the purple tier so long as students wear masks and follow the safety protocols. Please get us back to school, in the classrooms, not in the learning commons or outside for quarter 3. If teachers fear coming back to the classrooms then let them stay home, but student education matters. Let those who want to come back do so safely. Stop making excuses for why we can't go back and instead come up with a plan that will go into action starting at the 3rd quarter!</p>
Reece Davies	<p>I want to be back in school, in the same classroom as my teachers and peers. I want to see my teacher and my friends face-to-face. I'm tired of being isolated at home and it's a struggle to focus in distance learning. Only you have the power to open the schools and give us the ability to CHOOSE the best way for us to learn and be successful. Kids who want tomato home have that choice. I'm just asking for a choice too. Please use your power to help us.</p>
Julie Bronstein	<p>I feel that the old adage "KISS" - keep it simple... applies at this challenging and complicated time.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please don't reopen in purple tier. See Poway Unified as the perfect example as to why it's a bad idea.</li> <li>2. Listen to science - heed the advice of infectious disease experts and aerosol transmission experts who advise us not to open in purple tier for the health of our students, teachers and the community.</li> <li>3. Testing is critical once we do re-open. Now is the opportunity to start educating parents on the importance of regular testing. All the local private schools require it before students can return to school after breaks. I understand that public schools can't require it but testing certainly can be strongly recommended. It is frequently those who are asymptomatic who end up spreading the disease. Come up with a plan to offer free and convenient testing.</li> <li>4. Update your re-opening plan to require notification of ALL students and teachers in the classroom if someone tests positive in the classroom. The science demonstrates that COVID is airborne and transmission is aerosolized. Hence, anytime you are indoors with someone who has COVID, you are being exposed. If we are notified when someone has lice or strep throat, why wouldn't be be notified when someone has COVID?</li> <li>6. Offer teachers the choice to telework until we are out of the purple tier. Our fabulous teachers and classified staff are the "secret sauce" in what makes our school District number one. Please respect the teachers and classified staff. Work with them, speak to them, collaborate. A contentious relationship with the teachers and classified staff will not lead to anything positive for our district.</li> <li>7. The vaccine is here! UC San Diego, where I work, is administering 5,000 vaccines a day at Petco Park. If we can be patient and wait just a bit longer, teachers and others in the community will be getting their vaccines and it will be much safer to return to school.</li> </ol>
Bryn Faris	<p>With severe division happening throughout our country trickling down into our community and our very own school district-with one group of people forming a Parent Association, charging for membership, with a goal of tearing apart our Union - and another group focused on protecting our school community from contracting a potentially deadly virus, WE NEED YOUR LEADERSHIP! We need you to HELP us come together, to bridge the dangerous gap that on a national level has led to breaching the Capitol building, traumatizing individual lives, and 5 violent deaths! That same dangerous level of tension is happening right here at SDUHSD! Please help us come together and move forward together. We can't keep fighting with each other. We must depend on the experts in their fields, in science and medicine and education, and we want to be able to depend on your leadership to go from there. The acts I'm seeing on social media and throughout our cities are only fueling this divisiveness and giving people the idea they too can do whatever they want like breach the capitol building, or in this case form an association recruiting anybody in the community to teach our children. I have a friend who works for CTA. In one of the Reopen Now groups they are targeting CTA with comments like, and I quote from social media (which as we know is a powerful and potentially dangerous platform): "It's time to send protesters (the kind that showed up to the capitol) to CTA headquarters. They need to start feeling the heat." and the response to that of: "I'm not kidding - that is exactly what I thought when I watched what was happening at the Capitol - that the next building that needed their doors kicked in is CTA!" AND THEN THEY CREATED AN EVENT for this to happen! This is terrifying! Please, I beg of you as a teacher in this district, please help us come together as a community. One of the core values listed on the board of trustees page is "we will work together to meet our challenges." Another is "we will model the type of behavior we expect in our district." I ask that you please try harder.</p>



Name	Comment
Glenn Collins	<p>We have been in your ears since August about safety and that our buildings and our plan is still not safe for broad in-person learning. We've shared resources, evidence, data, talked about MERV 13 before it was a catchphrase, and have been ignored. We look forward to the report from Siemens, which the district appears to have contracted for consultation in some capacity. Please allow school site administrators the time and resources to bring small groups on campus for extracurricular and athletic socializing opportunities--safe, outdoors, distanced, masked. You know, my son got to be on the CCA baseball field again on Tuesday, in small groups, everyone masked and distanced, and he loved it. This is what we hoped for back in October and November. But getting that done took work and planning and thought--none of which were possible at school sites because district administration couldn't stick to a plan for in-school hours, and school site administrators were swamped trying to implement constantly changing directions from the administration. Prepare the buildings, really prepare them, as Harvard School of Public Health and UCSD Return to Learn recommend so that when we are out of the purple tier for at least 14 days, a safe return to classrooms can be phased in, as the Educational Services team showed in the informative slide set in the December 15 board packet. Please give teachers and staff in writing the choice about where to teach from, as Trustee Muir told a reporter and as Trustee Allman said in his exclusive, censored Facebook Group. Please follow the law as written, not as your legal counsel interprets it. Public health orders are determined by medical professionals and researchers. The public health orders are clear. The science is increasingly clear. Middle and high schoolers contract and suffer from this disease. Hospitals are seeing an 800% increase in children being admitted for serious COVID complications, with children over the age of 15 constituting a majority because their bodies more closely resemble adults. Take this seriously.</p>
Amanda Davies	<p>Please put our kids first. Districts around our country have found a way to bring their students back safely. This is because they know, we all know, it's in the best interest of students. Distance learning was never meant to be a long term solution. Kids need socialization. They need to get out of their house and see their teachers and their peers. This can be done. It is being done. All across our country. Please put an end to the harm we are causing our kids. They are counting on the adult decision makers to do what is in their best interest. Experts agree that in person learning is the best....even in communities where the virus is widespread. The evidence is clear. School is still the safest and best place for our kids. Follow the science. Follow the data. Please show compassion for our kids and do what is right.</p>
Anonymous	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Thank you for continuing to work with the teachers, site administrators, parents, and especially the students, towards a safe reopening of our campuses. Follow all guidelines from the CDPH and take better advantage of the work already completed and vetted by the UCSD Return To Learn program. Please do not rely on any of the facebook groups for your opinions as all of the groups seem to have very vocal minorities of opinion.</li> <li>2. Please maximize the site-specific input from all of the administrators as they know their communities the best. The information presented to the Board from the SDUHSD Educational Services at the last meeting showed careful planning and decision making. Please take advantage of their educational expertise to chart and implement the next steps.</li> <li>3. Regarding expanding the reopening, please push forward with plans that lead with science and include the important voices of the students. The rash actions taken by the Board regarding reopening has unfortunately put our district in the larger public eye and all action will be scrutinized widely. You must ensure that it cannot be litigated widely as well as that is a waste of time and resources.</li> <li>4. I have observed some of my kids' classes and we discuss school generally and specifically often in our household. I am blown away at how creatively the teachers have made this semester despite the many challenges and uncertainty. I do not feel that the academics have suffered this semester and am impressed by the administrators and staff at SDA. Well done, SDA!</li> </ol>
Kimberly McSherry	<p>In this new year we finally have some hope of climbing out of this pandemic. But we are sadly not yet out of these woods, and not in a place to disregard public health guidelines. As is widely recognized, schools can't massively expand the number of students present in person just yet. Our hospitals are still overwhelmed, and within our schools we have far too many staff that are vulnerable to severe outcomes from Covid. We must continue to follow CDPH guidelines and remain in distance learning until we have cleared the purple tier.</p> <p>There are facts we can't escape. Current research shows schools are a source of spread when case rates are at this level. This virus is airborne, and our classrooms lack the ventilation to be safe for students and staff. Our schools face severe staffing shortages which preclude the possibility of a successful return to campus outside of a distance learning model.</p> <p>Fortunately we do have some good news. The vaccine is here, teacher priority on the horizon. Our teachers are providing students with a robust distance learning model that is stable and enables equity. For students who need or want to be on campus, spaces are available, with the ability to expand as more of our population is vaccinated and case rates begin to fall. Our schools are full of engaged student leaders who want to reach out to their peers and build connections.</p> <p>I ask the board to stay the course. Give our students stability and predictability. Protect our excellent academic integrity. Keep our award-winning teachers in our district by providing a formal telework policy. And listen to talented district experts and site administrators as they present data and plans. This is a challenging time, but the board has reason to be both proud and reassured at the facts showing most students are doing well, and those that need help or just want more connection with school can be accommodated. Prudent and careful stewardship will lead to a strong recovery.</p>

Name	Comment
Grace Ko	<p>Since the fall, the community has asked for a clear plan that helps guide the district through the complicated process of making decisions in ever-changing situations. We hear that there is a plan, but what is shared lacks the substance and details that people need, and without that clear and specific information and communication, the community doesn't understand why the teachers and staff express concerns, how instruction may decline or improve in quality, and how complex and interrelated each decision and directive is. In the absence of that clarity, small groups of parents attempt to support or subvert what the district and sites are doing, thoughtful discussion drawing upon the expertise of the most experience and qualified is absent, and everyone is left reeling from what feels like haphazard and abrupt changes.</p> <p>The latest directive and "plan" took administrator and staff time to implement – probably more time than the general public realizes. IF it is permissible through the guidelines (and that must be determined), keep it stable, make it safe, engage and collaborate with your teachers and staff who will be the ones who make any plan work, and allow administrators more than a moment to look to what's next and plan for the benefit of all students rather than pivoting yet again. If you do have to change course because a plan was implemented that does not meet health and safety guidelines (or even if you can proceed), look at what you learned from this experiment and take the time to move forward in a more, measured way so that when the county exits the purple tier, you can proceed more smoothly. There is much expertise within our district or available from those who focus on best practices, not just getting by. Rely on true experts, in all areas – science, medicine, and education -- to put together a plan that is sustainable and adaptable in changing circumstance, and then communicate it clearly. You cannot end strong if you do not start smart.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I feel like we have waited long enough. I don't want to do school in my room anymore. It's monotonous and isolating. It's really hard to stay focused all day. I want a small part of my freshman year. I know schools can open safely. Other districts all over our country have found a way to do it. Why can't ours? I heard our district was so good, but we might be the last one of the last ones to actually go back. Even though we know it's what is best for a lot kids. I just want a choice. Kids can stay home. Teachers can too. Why don't I get a choice? Please think about all the kids, and give a choice to attend school with friends and teachers. It's been so long. Please.</p>
Jen Charat	<p>New Year, new SDUHSD announcements. More changes in an endlessly changing school year.</p> <p>Trustees have spoken to reporters and to a private, censored Facebook group to say, "The District has plans to provide accommodations for teachers who have medical issues, or have family members at risk, or suffer from anxiety, or have child care issues. These teachers could teach from home as they do today, . . ." Teachers and staff still have no written communication with details of the trustees' directive. Please communicate this with teachers and staff in writing and not through Facebook.</p> <p>Another change we've seen in 2021 is more students on campus, a surprise change that can't be called an expansion of cohorts because the students cannot be described by the CDPH Cohorting Guidance which "authorizes small-group, in-person services in controlled, supervised, and indoor environments." Distance learning from courtyards at schools is not in-person services nor indoors. If the next surprise change is to shift to grade levels--not even close to the Cohorting Guidance--it would drain more resources and time from the lawful directive to bring students on campus for safe after school extracurriculars and athletics, socializing opportunities that don't disrupt the academic model that's working as district evidence shows.</p> <p>Students need to socialize. It's important to mental health. And though teen suicides declined 40% from 2019 to 2020 according to the San Diego County Medical Examiners Office, we cannot stop worrying about the risk, and offering truly safe after school socialization opportunities on campus does help all teens. But school sites haven't been able to focus on that because the plan keeps changing. Please leave the academic model intact. Do not return more students until at least two weeks out of the purple tier. Offer teachers and staff choice. Allow safe campus access for priority populations identified through appropriate channels that are not manipulated by families to skew numbers, and safely bring back general students for extracurriculars and athletics.</p>
SDUHSD Teacher	<p>We are asking the board to please provide IN WRITING an official document detailing the guidelines and regulations of how a teacher qualifies for remote vs. onsite teaching options when the district is allowed to reopen in the red tier. Please include how long the accommodations will last. This has not been given to teachers as the board has previously stated. Thank you.</p>
Seth Levine	<p>I ask the Board Trustees and District Leadership to ensure that all stakeholders are finally engaged in a SAFE plan to reopen the schools and not a RUSHED plan that has been what has been seen up to now. Please do not repeat the mistakes of the December 15th meeting and set arbitrary deadlines and rush not only to partial onsite instruction but to full 5-day onsite instruction. That is dangerous to our students, staff and faculty, and community. There is lot of talk about wanting to be able to balance and accommodate teachers who have a need to teach remotely, but so far this has all be talk with no actual plan or details provided to classified staff and teachers from the district HR leadership. Please ensure whatever plan for the 3rd quarter and beyond that is planned for has clarity of this. We need to do this safely. We need to include students, families, teachers, and staff in the discussion and demonstrate the best practices that are being used to ensure safety. Please don't vilify any key stakeholder group especially the teachers. If we push them away and out of the district we will not only harm our schools now but also long into the future as we struggle to replace our talented educators!</p>
Anonymous	<p>The board needs to stop catering to the teachers union and start doing the job they were elected to do...Protect the Education of our Children!!!! Open the Schools and stop messing with this 1 day per week distance learning from school BS!!!</p> <p>The board continues to encourage it's families with bits &amp; pieces of hope and each time that hope is ripped away. The board and the school district have failed so many kids by crushing their dreams and all that they have worked. I know so many who have just given up! Start putting the kids first and come up with a plan that sticks!!!</p> <p>We were recently in North Carolina where we met many children, teachers and coaches. Their education plan is split into 2 cohoerts. Coherts A and B where A goes 1 week and B goes the alternating week. The kids seemed to be OK with this plan as they still had their sports and extra curricular activities.</p> <p>If other districts, cities, states are making it work, why can't our small little district that has had so little spread of the virus. Get it together!!! You are destroying our kids futures.</p>
Suzanne von Thaden	<p>Please continue to pursue returning to in person education. While my student's grades are good, it is a daily battle to motivate him to get his work done. I am loosing confidence in our district to properly educate my child. Based on my student's experience since March 2020 w certain educators we will not take specific classes at SDUHSD going forward. Other schools are going back to in person learning successfully, if SDUHSD can't make this happen, then you need to turnover your leadership. Step up and serve your main clients- the students!</p>

Name	Comment
Anonymous	<p>Students should have the choice to go back to school full time. Nobody is forcing students who do not wish to go back to in person school to do so, yet they seem to be the only kids the district is listening to. Distance learning on campus is not adequate. It is simply causing more hassle and disruption to the already subpar learning experience us students are getting this year. I will be attending college next year, and unless we get back to having at least a semi-normal school year with at least two days of on campus learning, I will be severely behind my fellow classmates there, jeopardizing my future. Without in person learning, it will have been at least 17 months, or 528 days, without being in a classroom setting. I will have a disadvantage when it comes to study habits, attention span, collaboration, and social interaction, and it will be the fault of SDUHSD. My class is missing the most important part of our time high school careers. The district has had ten months to plan a way to get students back to in person learning, yet we are no where nearer now than we were at the beginning. Our lives and futures are on the line, and so I ask. When will the district start caring about its' students' educations?</p>
Andrew Gao	<p>Current CDPH guidance states that schools that are not already open cannot reopen until two weeks after the county has been out of the purple tier. This applies to SDUHSD schools. The District should follow the CDPH guidance as well as the expert advice of scientists from the UCSD Return to Learn program to determine when it is safe to reopen.</p> <p>Schools worldwide have been shown to be vectors for community transmission (see sources linked in this thread from epidemiologist Dr. Deepti Gurdasani, including Nature the The Lancet). <a href="https://twitter.com/dgurdasani1/status/1346362167348617216">https://twitter.com/dgurdasani1/status/1346362167348617216</a></p> <p>Trustee Michael Allman has publicly said, "The District has plans to provide accommodations for teachers who have medical issues, or have family members at risk, or suffer from anxiety, or have child care issues. These teachers could teach from home as they do today, . . ." Board President Maureen Muir articulated similar plans to a local reporter. Yet teachers have not seen written communication from the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources outlining the details of the trustees' directive. Please follow through and communicate this directive with teachers in writing to facilitate planning and staffing as part of any future opening discussions.</p>
Jennifer Daniel-Duckering	<p>As a parent of two kids in the District, I would urge this Board, to approach the re-opening of our campuses in Quarters 3 and 4 in a responsible and safe manner. We are the BEST school District in California. Yet the recent behavior of this Board and the Superintendent surrounding re-opening of our schools suggests you don't care if we loose that honored distinction. The Best District would be a leader – would be setting an example for surrounding districts – by adopting and following best practices and safety standards. So, if you're not going to act like a leader, I implore you to, at a minimum, be a "follower." FOLLOW the public health guidelines. Current CDPH guidelines preclude schools from reopening until two weeks after the county has moved out of the purple tier. We are not there yet and, sadly, we will not be there at the start of Quarter 3. FOLLOW the state's guidance related to cohorts for those groups of students (allegedly) receiving targeted support services on our campuses. FOLLOW science-based best practices regarding safety protocols and implement the updated recommendations of UCSD's Return to Learn (as SD Unified has done). Recent studies show there IS evidence schools are a source of spread where case rates are as high as they currently are in San Diego. FOLLOW the educational expertise of our administrators and teachers. THEY (not you) have the best situational knowledge about what needs to happen in their classrooms to maximize academic equity AND safety. Let THEM drive the plan rather than the political agenda of a few Board members. FOLLOW up on your promises to teachers regarding teleworking. Trustee Allman publicly stated at the last board meeting the District "has plans" to allow teachers who have "have medical issues, or have family members at risk, or suffer from anxiety, or have child care issues" to teach from home. Those "plans" are no where to be found in writing and have never been said to apply beyond Quarter 2 so it's time to "put your money where your mouth is" and put that promise in writing to our teachers.</p>
Anonymous	<p>The information below is from 2 articles posted this week in the LA Times and the SF Chronicle. Based on this information, we (the parents and students) deserve and demand to know immediately what our teachers' and district's plan is for the remainder of the 2020-21 year AND the 2021-22 year.</p> <p>California Gov. Gavin Newsom says he's given no consideration to forcing schools to reopen if teachers unions refuse to move ahead with in-person instruction once educators are vaccinated.</p> <p>During a press conference after unveiling his proposed budget for the new fiscal year, Newsom was asked to respond to growing criticism that his recently announced plan to incentivize districts to reopen gives teachers unions the power to keep schools shuttered until the pandemic is over. He was also asked if he would consider compelling the opening of schools if unions refuse to agree to local reopening plans.</p> <p>Most of California's public schools have remained closed throughout the coronavirus pandemic as district officials have slow-walked reopenings. California is an outlier nationally, as public schools have been open in other large blue states such as New York and Massachusetts.</p> <p>However, many teachers unions in the state have said they will not return to classrooms even if educators are vaccinated.</p> <p>For example, the California Teachers Association said even if all teachers are vaccinated, schools should not reopen if their counties are in the purple tier of the state's reopening plan. The current stay-at-home order allows for the few schools that have opened to continue instruction.</p> <p>However, many teachers unions in the state have said they will not return to classrooms even if educators are vaccinated. For example, the California Teachers Association said even if all teachers are vaccinated, schools should not reopen if their counties are in the purple tier of the state's reopening plan. The current stay-at-home order allows for the few schools that have opened to continue instruction.</p>

Name	Comment
Seema Burke	<p>The Board must approve an expanded reopening for all SDUHSD campuses for 1/27 or at latest 2/1. The Brown University School of Public Health recently issued a report recommending “that schools be open even at the very high levels of spread we are now seeing, provided that they strictly implement strategies of infection control.” Here’s an expanded reopening proposal that includes many elements of the 1/4 plan, but with one significant change: to give ALL CHOICE to teachers for any reason to remotely teach, including if they believe it is not safe to teach from campus—this means that teachers don’t have to fear for their lives due to getting COVID at school, don’t have to retire early, don’t have to use sick leave. The plan also includes that 1) school sites follow all safety protocol promulgated by CDPH and state, and review the Brown report and UCSD protocol as well, 2) the people back on campus are only ones that want to be there FULLY by choice, 3) the model is initially 1 day a week hybrid with desk cameras for teachers so students at home see the teacher at all times, resulting in 4 to 6 students per class based on the 1/4 expanded reopening survey results, 4) to ensure little community impact, have reasonable concrete transmission/case rate thresholds with seating charts, which, if exceeded, would result in quarantine or school closures, and which closures would only impact the students and teachers that choose to be on campus so they are accepting the risk of back and forth learning, and 5) notify an entire class if someone gets COVID, so parents can make informed decisions even if their student was not a close contact.</p> <p>With CHOICE for teachers, the union gains protection of its members where any teacher who chooses to stay home has the right to do so, and those who choose to be on campus can do so safely for both themselves and the community. Any parent subs recruited are more proctors for remote teachers, and not teaching the class, and some will do it for free.</p>
Suzie Ricci	<p>Dear board,</p> <p>Our kids need to be back in school for in person learning, that is how they learn best. Please work with the teachers union to come up with a plan everyone can agree on. If you can't, please let us parents know that our schools will not be opening this year. Stop stringing us along. Even if the plan is a month out. Let us know what it will be. Give our kids and teachers a choice for in person learning or distance learning.</p>
Kathy Stenger	<p>I write to the board with gratitude for choosing to delay the return to school in light of the continuing and growing surge in COVID-19 cases in our county and throughout the country. Returning immediately after the holiday break was unwise and I appreciate the choice to wait. While I so appreciate the yearning of students to return to their schools in person, I urge the board to proceed with caution and avoid rushing. Note that the cases continue to spike, that our hospitals and staff are overburdened, and that a new more contagious strain of the virus is spreading. Please do your due diligence by waiting to return until two weeks after our region has exited the purple tier, by adhering to the guidelines outlined by UCSD Return to Learn, and by articulating in writing your commitments to accommodate teachers at risk or with family members at risk to continue to teach remotely. Please put any animosity between the board and teachers aside and choose to work together to create a plan that works to serve students, to keep all staff safe, and to stop the spread of the virus. Thank you too for reaching out to students whose mental health is suffering. We can clearly come together as a community to care for one another even while doing what's required to slow and eventually stop this pandemic. Thank you for your time and attention.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I have been writing to the board and Dr. Haley since October in an effort to understand why we as a district could not offer our students a hybrid model as so many other high schools in the country and state have done. At a board meeting in June we were told by Dr. Haley that he would unequivocally open the schools the moment we could reopen. That moment came and passed and schools remained closed. In September, when numbers were low, Saddleback Unified opened schools for in-person learning to all students in a safe way. I sent their video and plan to every member of this board and Dr. Haley. You had an outline of what to do that other districts already put together 4 months ago and yet, still have not opened. On October 1, we were told that an expanded re-opening committee was put in place and we would receive updates and communication from this committee after each meeting. The last update I can find was on October 8. On December 28th, I was told you need time to work on a plan that is actionable, sustainable and safe. Will we see that plan today? As we get closer to the 2nd semester, have you addressed the concerns from the teachers/ teacher's union and have you been able to find middle ground so that you can ensure your students have a safe place to learn on campus and you have the staff to teach them? Carlsbad Unified and Vista are both scheduled to go back at the end of the month to in-person learning. Will SDUHSD be the only district in our area left behind? We have been told many things from this board and from Dr. Haley since schools closed in March yet we have seen little execution in moving forward to open campus. Students and parents are exhausted. You have made grave mistakes with your lack of planning and leadership. You should not go another week and another board meeting offering more empty promises. There needs to be accountability in place for the words and actions that have been taken over the last 10 months.</p>
Shiva Kansagara	<p>Currently, it is still not safe to return to school as cases in California are still rising. Schools have been found to be vectors for transmitting this virus. The vaccine for this virus was just released less than a couple months ago. Since students are lower priority, we do not have access yet. However, if we wait a couple more months to reopen, majority of the students could have the opportunity to get the vaccine as an extra layer of protection. On the other hand, if we rush to reopen and many get COVID, reopening will likely be delayed even longer.</p> <p>I urge you to listen to science, credible health experts, and provide a more meticulous and deliberate plan for reopening. Our health, our family’s health, our friends’ health, and our teachers’ health is at risk. Thank you.</p>

Name	Comment
Ronette Youmans	<p>When I was first hired by the district to teach high school English, I was thrilled by the spirit of collaboration the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, and Board members showed in their willingness to work with teachers, students and their families.</p> <p>These days, sadly, we now experience divisiveness, distrust and a lack of honesty. Let's throw the mention of "a meter of social distance" and asking parents to take their kids' temperature before they show up at school into the trash bin of lessons learned.</p> <p>Instead, let's begin the New Year and new term with a reopening plan that begins AFTER waiting 2 weeks of being out of the purple tier, then with teachers &amp; students getting tested every week to a week and a half, hiring adequate custodial staff to assist in classroom cleaning between each different group of students, and after staff and educators are vaccinated.</p> <p>Recent studies have also shown evidence of schools as a source of spread, especially when case rates are as high as we have. NO more risk-taking and second guessing. Let's follow the official CDPH guidance and rely on recommendations made by UC San Diego Return to Learn as adopted by San Diego Unified School District.</p> <p>I heard stories this week of students who chose in-person learning on Monday where they found themselves sitting in the gym or in a tent outdoors, still interacting with their teachers virtually, supervised by subs who knew very little about the content of the class. Let's make the right choice here: rather than risk losing wonderful teachers from our district and offering subs higher pay, the time is NOW to invest in the safety of real instruction during safer times.</p>
Anonymous	<p>My 8th grader has not written a single paper this entire year, for any subject. The one and only "science project" she has completed was to make an animal out of card-board boxes found around the house. She did almost the exact same thing in pre-school. My 10th grader is learning chemistry by watching videos. The one and only chemistry experiment she has completed was a "grow crystals in a mason jar using a string with salt solution". She also did the exact same thing in pre-school. Please get these kids back to campus. Our kids deserve an education equal in quality to that offered by the local private high schools around us that have been open since fall.</p>
Anonymous	<p>As a parent of a 7th grader at PTMS, we appreciate all of the hard work and thoughtfulness the teachers and staff have put into creating the distance learning program during these every changing and unprecedented times. Please continue this current learning model for Q3. In our current public health situation with case numbers at all an all time high, it is the best option to protect the health of our students, teachers, families and community without compromising academic integrity.</p>
Tara Curley	<p>Board meeting after board meeting parents, teachers, and students have requested for the district to provide accommodations for teachers to telework. In fact, I've heard all five Board Trustees support this action and at the last board meeting both Trustee Michael Allman and President Mo Muir indicated this would be happening- but still to this day, there has been no written communication from the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources outlining the details of the trustees' directive. Please follow through and communicate this directive with teachers in writing to facilitate planning and staffing as part of any future opening discussions or we risk losing additional teachers out of concern and fear they will be forced back into the classroom.</p> <p>Teachers have demonstrated that they can teach successfully from home. It follows federal and state recommendations that employees who can telework should do so to reduce density in workplaces.</p> <p>The flexibility of telework allows our experienced, professional faculty to continue to teach our students. Any action that requires teachers to choose between their career or their health/a loved ones' health may result in a degradation of instruction, especially during this educational staffing shortage.</p> <p>Continuing to allow teleworking promotes teaching and learning continuity in the event of possible COVID exposures to faculty and staff needing to quarantine.</p> <p>Whether you are for or against a wide reopening it seems that ALL parents and students would agree that a stable education with an experienced teacher is paramount to equitable education for all. If concerned teachers go on leave ALL students will be affected- so the "just stay home" mentality does not work.</p> <p>I, myself, and many parents would feel much safer if SDUHSD takes a science-based approach to school reopening just as San Diego Union School District has done working with UCSD's Return To Learn Program enlisting the advice of epidemiologists, infectious disease and virology experts.</p>
Dylan Baurle	<p>My name is Dylan and I'm a senior at LCC. I want the choice to return to campus for the rest of my senior year. There's a lack of data supporting the claim that most of us want to stay home, which is what the public is being told. This is just NOT true. What is true is that we are tired of getting our hopes up just to be disappointed time after time. The board and district leadership are going in circles regarding letting us return to campus. Even though they have been indecisive for so long, we are all still holding out hope that we will be able to return. Even if the definitive answer is "No, you will not be returning to campus this year," please just tell us so we can accept it and move on. I think it's hypocritical to ask students what they think and then only listen to a small minority saying they don't want to return. Please give us a CHOICE to finish our senior year in person and the ability to make a few memories before we graduate. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I would expect nothing but the highest level of planning for any school re openings in our high achieving District. The latest on campus learning experience does not fit the return to learn experience I would hope to be planned. Not because it is not being implemented to the best of the campuses abilities, but because it seems to be a tiny patch in a gaping hole of the District's plans. The amount of students this plan serves and their level of need does not match the resources needed to implement and sustain these benefits. I would like to see the District and it's Board focus on being ready for reopening when allowed according to the CDPH guidelines. I am please to see the engagement of an HVAC expert, but where is the testing plan? Where is the agreement with the Staff to preserve our Teachers allowing them work flexibility? The campuses were lacking in the some of the most basic needs like extension cords for the kids who returned under the Freedom Plan. How can we be confident a school wide campus reopening will be successful if we don't see any improvement in the plan? We are better than this. We need all of our stakeholders to start collaborating and work together in good faith and start doing some hard work to be ready to reopen our schools.</p>

Name	Comment
Shannon Kearns	<p>First, I want to express my thanks to the staff and teachers at all of our schools. I continue to be impressed by how well they have transitioned to online learning and I know it was not an easy task. I appreciate all of the hard work, dedication, and time that everyone...staff, counselors, teachers, and principals have spent making the transition to online learning a success.</p> <p>As I have said since early spring, everyone wants to return to school. That is not the issue. The issue is how. I believe SDUHSD should follow the California Department of Public Health's guidance that states that schools that are not already open cannot reopen until two weeks after the County has been out of the purple tier. I also hope the Board listens to the expert advice of scientists from the UCSD Return to Learn Program. It is critical, given the new information we receive on a daily basis regarding the transmission of the virus, the new variants of the virus, and whether schools are shown to be vectors for community transmission, that we rely on experts and science and not merely on our desire to return to the classroom. If we want to go back, we need to do it together and do it well.</p> <p>Thank you, Shannon Kearns</p>
Molly Schneider	<p>10a</p> <p>SDUHSD needs mindful, responsible, consistent leadership, messaging and decision making. If the district message is "Our decision-making will be guided by considering the health and safety needs of our students, families, staff, and community as our highest priority," and trustees are saying that, "the District has plans to provide accommodations for teachers who have medical issues, or have family members at risk, or suffer from anxiety, or have child care issues. These teachers could teach from home as they do today,..." then please show us that these are actually true. Regarding health and safety, CDPH guidance specifically states that schools cannot reopen until two weeks after the county has been out of the purple tier. Is this seriously still warranting discussion? Stay committed to your words that health and safety applies to "our students, families, staff and community." We want to open when it is permissible and responsible and maintain academic excellence. We also want to do so with our renowned staff intact and appropriately supported. Toward academic excellence, please follow educational expertise. I found the presentation in the Dec.15th board packet helpful and would like to see the staff enabled to chart and implement next steps. SDUHSD administrators and teachers are most familiar with and have the best situational understanding of what needs to happen in a classroom in order to maximize academic integrity and safety. All ideas are worth consideration, but distance learning on the fields and in courtyards with chaperones is not robust enough. I looked back at an email I sent to the board in September suggesting to</p> <p>"Please continue to do your thoughtful work leaving politics and clamoring for change on the sidelines. Your clear messaging is appreciated. The student's minds are at ease when they know what to expect." I'm asking the same thing today and even more so. The social media antics and suggesting that a private Facebook group is how to communicate with the board is disrespectful to both the held position and community.</p>
Michael Russo	<p>Hello, my name is Michael Russo. I have had four children that attended SDA or LLC over the past 20 years. My daughter Angelina is currently a senior at LCC.</p> <p>Although my daughter is doing very well with the academic side of at home school, she is in dire need of the social side of actually attending IN CLASS, playing and watching high school athletics (this will be her last year on the LLC Softball Team, and learning to deal with functioning as a young adult interacting with her peers and other students on a day to day basis.</p> <p>There has been no proof that students attending school IN Class JEOPORDIZES the health or well being of teachers, administration or support staff, especially when we follow all the safety guidelines with wearing masks, washing our hands consistently, and keeping our social distance.</p> <p>Many private schools in San Diego are having full time students IN CLASS with little to no outbreaks or spread of Covid.</p> <p>We cannot continue to live in fear; Angelina has been away from her classmates since last March, and she wishes (as do her Mother and I) for her to get back to a normal life, with a normal education, with teachers IN CLASS teaching her in person.</p> <p>It is absolutely not fair that a minority of parents/students who do NOT want to go back to in class teaching should dictate to those of us who DO WANT to get back to in school teaching and attendance. Let each individual student and parents make their own choice for their own children.</p> <p>If a teacher has underlying conditions, let them continue to teach remotely. But they get paid to teach IN CLASS, and if they choose to not to follow the direction of the Board of Trustees, with no reason other then they do not want to follow their decision, then they should be furloughed, laid off, or let go.</p> <p>MY child wants to get back to full time in school attendance, as soon as the holiday vacation is over. Please let HER choice be heard today.</p>

Name	Comment
Cynthia Rajsbaum	<p>Please follow best practices and start now preparing for reopening. San Diego Unified is already testing students in partnership with UCSD. Everyone will be tested every two weeks. Please be specific as to what filtration is where. I know filters are being purchased but we need information for informed decisions. Saying filters is not enough, which filters, where are they? What volume are they for what us the classroom volume.</p> <p>Please follow public health guidelines about when we can open and have a plan to immediately close before endangering the community at large. Also please clearly state that everyone in a classroom will be notified if there is a positive case not just those who need to quarantine. Also please state clearly that teachers can telework so we can open not suffering a loss of qualified teachers. Many of who have kept our students mental health functional.</p> <p>The push to open at all costs because of students mental health is dangerous and misguided. Their impact on their mental health in causing the death of loved ones is much worse. And these reckless actions particularly stress your students from minority communities that have already been hard hit.</p> <p>Please follow the science and best practices and limit the number of students who can be in a classroom at a given time so we can safely reopen. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	SDUHSD administrators and teachers are most familiar with and have the best situational understanding of what needs to happen in a classroom in order to maximize academic integrity and safety; collaborate with them and let them drive the plan.
Anonymous	<p>Dude, we're almost there. Just a few more weeks before teachers and staff can get vaccinated. Just a little more patience and we'll be able to reopen SAFELY and responsibly.</p> <p>The keep the status quo for just a bit longer.</p>
Jason Barry	<p>Why do schools, even club sports and day camps, take such care in normal times at being inclusive and inviting? They break ice and connect shy, wary children and teens. Now though, when we peek out from a 9-month hiatus — with nearly no interaction — our campus cohorting seems to leave the kids to solitary air-drops into cold territory, with no allies and little provisions.</p> <p>The mechanics of a campus for cohorts are there — the basics, but barely, by recent reports. But there are no efforts to actually connect these disparate kids, who have existed largely alone, for so long. That's troubling. And neglectful. And it shows the limits of keeping schools anchored in closure.</p> <p>Where are the school psychologists and counselors to weigh in, about the harm of isolation and how to help them? Where are school counselors to build bridges and soften the edges of this cohort experience and make it — I don't even want say experiential — just palatable? Where is a student council reception committee? Where is the spark of school spirit? Or inclusiveness or forethought with any of this?</p> <p>Where are our district experts? Where is Duncan Brown, guidance counselor extraordinaire, and the cadres of in-house professionals, all highly steeped in guiding and shaping young lives?</p> <p>Maybe Duncan Brown, as S DFA President, can take a breath long enough from the crusade that keeps schools shuttered — and take role or lead in integrating our children back to campus in meaningful ways? That is his expertise and his job, the counseling and guidance and shaping of young lives? After Mr Brown and the others stop crusading for a second, their other job, shepherding our children, especially now, can use their attention.</p> <p>To be clear, cohorting is merely a step, just one in helping our kids. Please keep a focus on the broad reopening of our schools — for onsite, in-person learning. Do it safely. Do it in steps. Do it soon. But please keep moving forward for the students and teachers who choose to be there.</p>
Concerned parent and teacher	<p>Thank you for taking the time to listen to our feedback. I hope you all are in agreement, that based on current rules issued by CDPH and San Diego County Health Department, we cannot expand our reopening till we are in the Red Tier for at least two weeks. With that assumption, what is the plan when we do reopen? Please listen to staff and create a phased in approach for learning. Please do not consider opening to all students to come all days, as we saw in Vista how that plan backfired and resulted in more loss of learning. Remember, we are in a pandemic and public health crisis, so we must proceed with caution.</p> <p>Please also give specific plans to teachers on how to equitably support students in the classroom at the same time as students at home. Teaching outside under a tent is not an option if teachers need two monitors, a projector, and cameras, as those are all only in the classroom. In December, the board voiced the notion that all students and staff can work from home if their personal matters need that, but where is that in writing? Teachers still do not have any clear advice in writing from the district office about what is needed to work remotely, how to request leave, and how long leave requests will be honored. Finally, please remind the community that many of these decisions are beyond your control. You cannot "get sports going again," only CIF and the state can do that. You cannot "get kids back in the classroom now," only the state and local health officials can make that decision. What you CAN do, is regularly send clear communications to the community and educate us as to what teaching and learning will look like when we are permitted to have students in classrooms again.</p>

Name	Comment
Anonymous	<p>Picture a bright student with great grades, who is athletic and excited about school. Family, friends, teachers, coaches, and teammates are all driving forces motivating this student. They have a clear path to a successful future.</p> <p>Now Covid enters this student's world in March 2020. Changes and adjustments need to be made. They are made for the safety of the community and country. In September 2020, this student starts full time in person school, with great teachers once again motivating and pushing this student to be the best they can be. Coaches are on the fields teaching the life lessons of hard work and overcoming adversity required to be successful in life. Covid exists, this student is following safety protocols. Teachers are excited to teach and guide these future leaders. This student is continuing to learn and is excited about a bright future. This student is not in a SDUHSD school. This student does not have one of the most powerful unions in the country fighting to keep them down. A union that silences the voices of teachers who want to be in the classroom with their students to make those great lasting relationships. A union that is preventing teachers from doing what they long to do – teach.</p> <p>The SDUHSD student is falling behind academically, athletically, and most importantly mentally. The mental stress of effectively being under house arrest for almost a year does not go away. The science is quite clear and most other states and countries are open for in person learning and sports. Please stand up to the union and let those who choose to learn and teach in person do so. Choice is fair and equitable.</p>
<b>Item 10b - REPORT ON NONDISCRIMINATION IN DISTRICT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES, AND EQUITY</b>	
Mali woods	<p>Thank you for placing this item on the agenda and giving the public a chance to speak on the importance of Diversity &amp; Inclusion in our schools. My name is Mali Woods-Drake, I am the executive director and president of encinitas4equality and I want to especially acknowledge Board member Young for making time to meet with our E4E youth group, and after just a few weeks of being a board member, doing what the existing board and superintendent was hesitant or unwilling to do for the past 6 months.</p> <p>I am here today to strongly support the proposals of our E4E youth, led by Aya Jaffer and Joy, and the DON members, who in last 8 months have shown more courage, passion, and understanding about the importance of diversity and multiculturalism in our schools and country, than most adults i know. It is imperative to the future of not just our students, but quite frankly our country's future as a whole, that we begin to take an honest assessment of ourselves, our organizations, and our school systems that benefit from lack of diversity and teaching accurate history.</p> <p>I ask the board to support the prodigal brought forth by E4E and DON.</p> <p>The reality is, the youth at E4E and DON, have already shown to us, they will seek this education elsewhere, they will demand justice and equality in the streets, the classrooms, and i hope someday in elected positions. Our teachers are doing the same, they are using their own financial resources to seek diversity and inclusion trainings, they are finding creative ways to educate and support ALL our students, the movement for Black lives, and for all minority groups, is happening, and our youth are asking for your support in becoming better citizens of this world. So I ask the board, will you find the courage, passion, empathy, and open mindedness they each show, or will you fall on the wrong side of history, because it benefits you. I hope its the former, but those of us who believe in justice and equity, we will continue to do the work regardless.</p>
Kristin Fay	<p>My name is Kristin Fay and I am a parent of future SDUHSD students and the adult Co-Lead of the Youth committee for E4E. I would like to thank the Board for finally allowing the amazing students of your district have an agenda item. This is the first step in the long, but necessary road for change in the district. I would like to highlight the importance of the following for not only your students and staff of color, but all members of the school community.</p> <p>Recognition and Support for Multicultural Holidays such as Indigenous Peoples Day over Columbus Day and Cesar Chavez Day</p> <p>Public and Visual Commitment by the Board, District and Schools in ways such as banners, flags, websites and social media</p> <p>Equity Task Force/Committee, based off of support statement passed in September, this needs to be run by consultants of color and included students, guardians, administrator and teachers of color. In addition, those who represent other marginalized groups should have a seat at the table; LGBTQA+ and disabilities</p> <p>Systemic Changes in Response to Racism in Schools. Students of color need to know they can speak up safely and have someone or somewhere to visit when they face any form of racism, whether it be overt or casual, in the classroom, on campus or at a school sanctioned event. The offenders need to be properly addressed and disciplined. Not just a slap on the wrist and send you on your way.</p> <p>Require Educators and Staff Trainings as part of professional development that cover racism/anti-racism, how to have productive conversations about race, sensitivity around language, and culturally responsive teaching as examples.</p> <p>Curriculum changes and Representation where learning support services can collaborate with teachers to critically examine existing curriculum and develop ones that reflect the experiences and history of all community members in books, text and other learning materials</p> <p>Again I thank you for this first step of many</p>



Name	Comment
Heather Dugdale	<p>First, thank you for finally adding these students to the Board agenda and hearing their important presentation. I am hopeful that in helping them prepare for that presentation, there was no indication that they should be "mindful" or "careful" about what they say or address. They have waited way too long to be heard, and our white fragility should not stand in the way of them saying exactly what it is like to be a student of color in the San Dieguito Union High School District.</p> <p>Speaking of white fragility, I do have concerns that even the way the agenda item was posted waters down the message. I'm hopeful that in the future there is better consultation about the best language to use when addressing racism in our District. Words like anti-racism, white fragility, white privilege, micro-aggression, white supremacy - these should be spoken and addressed . . . often. We have seen unfold before our very eyes what happens when there is unchecked white privilege and racism allowed to run rampant, especially at our highest levels of government. We must not be afraid to admit and address these issues, especially now.</p> <p>I am hopeful that you will support and encourage all the things that these incredible students are asking for, starting with adjustments to our calendar. If we can recognize an entire month for Career Technical Education, we certainly should be honoring the months and special days that these students request. It costs us nothing financially and makes great inroads to verifying our commitment to equity and I hope anti-racism.</p> <p>I also hope there are meaningful changes to our curriculum. We have extraordinary teachers who can write and implement the highest quality instruction and these teachers would rise to this occasion.</p> <p>Finally, although a number of our campuses have become "No Place for Hate", we must go further - providing training for teachers as well as parents and students is vital. I very much look forward to the Diversity webinar that the students are hosting on Friday. I hope you will attend now and in the future.</p>
Anonymous	<p>As a SDA Alumni and Encinitas resident I have mostly good things to say about my experience there.</p> <p>However it is blatantly clear that a predominantly white staff and white board in our predominantly white town NEED to take serious steps to ensure that we honor diverse and intersecting student identities. It is NOT our students responsibilities to teach us about their identities.</p> <p>By neglecting to admit how limited our training is for teachers and staff, we are ensuring culturally biased experiences which will other and dehumanize students during their most pivotal years - whether we mean to or not, as educators if our actions disrespect or single out our students it will cause lasting trauma. These years shape a students identity and sense of self.</p> <p>By investing our time and energy to make sure that our practices honor and respect ALL of our students and their diverse and intersecting identities, we will all benefit. We can then learn from one another and ensure the development of the open minded and empathetic students that we all expect to come out of SDA.</p> <p>In order to improve our practices PLEASE listen to our student's requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Recognition and Support for Multicultural Holidays</li> <li>-Public and Visual Commitment by the Board &amp; District</li> <li>-Equity Task Force/Committee [including students/admin/staff/guardians of color, run by consultants of color]</li> <li>-Systemic Changes in Response to Racism in Schools</li> <li>-Required Educators and Staff Trainings</li> <li>-Curriculum changes and Representation</li> </ul> <p>I thank you for adding the E4E Youth and Diversify Our Narrative to your agenda and endorse their message.</p> <p>Please remember, the community is watching. The time for change is now.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Your youth have requested to speak at a board meeting. The district can learn important issues about racism going on in your district right now from your activist youth. E4E stands for Social Justice and a change in curriculum. The start of difficult conversations starts when you identify that racism is going on. They are wanting to initiate these discussions to reveal hard truths.</p>
Jody White	<p>As a resident of Encinitas and mother of three children in EUSD, I was extremely disappointed to learn that the SDUHSD Board wasn't already supporting students who face racism in schools or mandating anti-racism training for faculty. Teachers should be supported and educated by their districts in order to support their students. Especially in the current climate of today, it is ludicrous to deny either. High School students are old enough to look up the real history of the United States on the internet, wouldn't you agree that the curriculum be the same? I fully support the students requests for all of the above, including the recognition and support for multicultural holidays. I am proud to see that EUSD has engaged teachers and principals of all their schools by hosting a regularly schedule Equity Committee meeting. I request that the SDUHSD Board follow in their footsteps. It wouldn't seem logical that the students in elementary school have more access to equality and equity conversations than high school students. I trust that the board will vote in favor of the students requests for a more equitable environment to thrive in.</p>

Name	Comment
Jenny Oehler	<p>What specific action will you be taking to combat racism in our community?</p> <p>Please listen and act on the Encinitas4Equity and Diversify Our Narrative student representatives. The proposal that they are submitting to Ms. Young and Ms. Mossy is through and thoughtful. Please also look to Poway Unified's Plan to Prioritize Racial Equity and Inclusion. Please work on the following action items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognition and Support for Multicultural Holidays</li> <li>2. Public and Visual Commitment by the Board, District and</li> <li>3. Equity Task Force/Committee [including students/admin/staff/guardians of color, run by consultants of color]</li> <li>4. Systemic Changes in Response to Racism in Schools</li> <li>5. Required Educators and Staff Trainings</li> <li>6. Curriculum changes and Representation</li> </ol> <p>The language of the board's equity policy BP 1415 needs to be more clear and include the following language: prevent/educate against White supremacy, racism, and racist micro-aggressions.</p> <p>Change can be hard, but this is important to help our community grow.</p>
Frances Chai	<p>SDUHSD aims to be a district where students can learn, thrive, and graduate knowing that they are prepared for whatever the world throws at them. However, the multicultural education and understanding necessary for the aforementioned is still severely lacking, if not missing entirely. Multicultural holidays are left off of the district calendar, BIPOC authors are missing in English and literature curriculum, status quo history classes teach a very Eurocentric, white-washed version of historical events, and administrators are not knowledgeable in how to properly deal with acts of blatant racism on campus. There needs to be an organization comprised of BIPOC parents, community members, administrators, teachers, and students working alongside board members to enact tangible changes (such as incorporation of ethnic studies in our curriculum, addition of multicultural day celebrations, and other such things in order to represent our district's diverse population and actively combat racism). Thank you!</p>
Anonymous	<p>Educators and staff within the district need ongoing equity and anti-bias training. It needs to be a priority to hire and pay a BIPOC anti-bias anti-racism professional consultant to begin ASAP. School funds need to be allocated to refresh outdated curriculum and books that perpetuate racism and negative stereotypes. Offenders of racism at the school or district level need to be held accountable through a clear system of consequences. Recognition and celebration of staff and students of color needs to be ongoing and not a one-time event.</p>
Katherine Stenger	<p>Thank you Board of Trustees for making time to listen to our future leaders today. Aya, Joy, and the other members of E4E and Diversify Our Narrative have been eager to speak to you for some time. I speak to you as a SDUHSD parent, a member of E4E, and a teacher. I have always reminded my students they are living history every day, a truth amplified this year beyond measure. In such historic times we are called to rise beyond what might typically be expected of citizens and leaders. And that is what I and others call on you to do today. Your policy includes nice but mediocre language that refers to bias and equity but fails to address racism directly. What our students want and what our nation needs is a direct acknowledgement of the historic need for white people to maintain the belief that they are better than others--and the systems and culture that enforce this fallacy. White students--my own children included--have the privilege of studying the history of their own ancestors, of seeing mentors and teachers that look and speak like they do, and receiving the benefit of the doubt that they are always well-meaning "good kids." All the while students of color grow up at risk of internalizing a sense of inferiority, or worse, experiencing blatant racist hate. We are better than this. Poway is a community traditionally more conservative and more homogeneous than Encinitas and yet they have been out in front--since at least 2013--in engaging in deep and difficult self-reflection and producing a comprehensive plan that resolves to fight racism in all its forms. Encinitas needs an equivalent plan that examines bias and racism throughout our school system, that provides for anti-racist education and leadership, that commits to diversifying our faculty and curriculum, and that responds unwaveringly to discrimination. The intrepid students you'll hear from today are brave and wise beyond their years. It is our duty to respond not by placating them, but by looking to heal the deep wounds they have revealed. Thank you for your time and attention.</p>
Lauren Monahan	<p>I'm so glad that we're finally listening to these kids. From what I've seen over my near two-decades, we have not done enough to protect our minority students from subtle and very overt racism. It has only gotten increasingly malignant and some of us have been working quite hard to try to stop our students from being bathed in a culture where the "n-word" has become commonplace and swastikas have become normalized. Smaller and simple band-aid fixes are not working. Our individual sites need more from the school board, district office, and community at large to help us. If you're a parent reading this, please have a hard conversation with your teen on why these overt and other more subtle acts of racism are unacceptable. If you're a member of our DO or board, please commit time and resources to a sincere and deep culture-shift. We all need to work together or we are failing both our minority and majority students in a tragic way. I can't handle more of my minority students being treated in this manner. I hope none of us can. Let's all listen, work together, and be much much better.</p>
Cynthia Rajsbaum	<p>The need to understand each others experience is a great one. Unfortunately that desire to have empathy and understanding of one another is often perverted and abused for political means. Please ensure that any curriculum adopted or otherwise brought it to our district by any other means continues in the spirit of equity and non discrimination. There is a reason so many groups requested that Newsom veto previous versions of the proposed ethnic studies curriculum because of its targeting of certain groups. For example, some proposed lessons targeted persons of Jewish origin erasing their ethnic roots and the historic discrimination they have faced (and continue to face). Please adopt an ethnic studies curriculum that brings us together and not a critical ethnic studies curriculum that seeks to pit us against one another, targets certain groups and subjects some of your students to discrimination.</p>

Name	Comment
Kathleen Paranthaman	<p>Student leaders from Diversify Our Narrative and Encinitas4Equality Youth Group have been prepared to share their lived experiences of racism on campuses across SDUHSD. Both school leadership and the board are not interested in having these experiences made public and requested that the Youth put forth actionable requests instead. I support the students in their request to recognize, teach, and celebrate Indigenous People's Day, Cesar Chavez Day, Juneteenth, and Multicultural Day. I believe the Board can approve this request tonight. SDUHSD and the Board have not publicly made comment and taken a stance against racism despite the racialized events of the past year. A statement including Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is not acceptable, and will not suffice. In the Board's Equity policy, which does not call out racism, it states that "the board shall make decisions with a deliberate awareness of impediments to learning faced by students of color." An all-white board and district leadership are not equipped to recognize that white supremacy, acts of racism, racist micro-aggressions, a lack of representation in curriculum, among their teachers, and in the school culture and calendar are all impediments to learning and must be remedied with systemic changes. The Equity Task Force promised during the September 2020 Board Meeting needs to be implemented with assurances that representation of students, parents, teachers, and administrators of color are included and have opportunity to work with a BIPOC consultant. With the support of the Equity Task Force, systemic changes must be considered to address how racism is responded to within schools. As the students can share, despite the district stating that teachers know about Restorative Practices, students experience inconsistency and do not see a clear, just and direct policy being implemented. Students need to be allowed to share these experiences publicly. I expect and request to see students regularly approved on the board agenda for continued opportunities to share throughout this school year.</p>
Shiva Kansagara	<p>My name is Shiva Kansagara. I am a junior at CCA. A student's ethnic background is an important part of their identity. When we read texts that follow white protagonists and are written by white authors, our perspective is narrow, giving students limited to zero outlook on other cultures. In reality, our community is so diverse and we all have different stories to share. It's time to start teaching students to embrace their diversity from a young age. There are a few ways the school board can work towards doing that. First, implement an "A-G" approved ethnic studies course that would be required for graduation. Second, add anti-racist texts to English and literature classes that follow stories written by people of color. Third, provide events, such as webinars, that teach educators how to actively be anti-racist in the classroom. It is a hard conversation to have, so with these events and resources, teachers may feel more comfortable talking about racial bias and identity with their students.</p> <p>Finally, us students would love to hear from the board about the services that have already been provided, and what is currently in the works. We ask for transparency and open communication lines. We urge the board to work together with us, people of color within SDUHSD, to help students receive the ethnic education we are requesting. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>As a tax paying parent in the district with 2 students in our schools and as a Jewish American, I respectfully request that the board selects an inclusive ethnic studies curriculum and not a divisive critical ethnic studies curriculum that is biased against certain groups. Please rely on well thought out input from the ADL when making your decision on appropriate and inclusive curriculum.</p>
Maria Figueroa	<p>Good evening, Superintendent Haley, Board President, and Trustees.</p> <p>I goes without saying that we are in a state of crisis, a state where our children are watching as adults struggle to facilitate words of reason. Sometimes it is easier to sit the sidelines and spectate. Spectating and not acting or addressing the challenges before us is simply irresponsible. As a parent of a new freshmen in this district, and a fellow educator teaching in higher education, I urge this Board to not be bystanders and spectators but to be courageous examples of justice and truth. Listen to the students, to the youth when they come to you with a request to honor multicultural holidays extending beyond our traditional ones. Believe them when they share their narratives about experiencing racism in this district. Listen to them when they tell you they want to read alternative narratives in History and English disciplines.</p> <p>In his seminal text, <i>A Different Mirror</i>, the late historian, Ronald Takaki warns us of the filter known as "The Master Narrative" - where anyone who does not look or sound white, or American, must be foreign, othered, and therefore less important. Should this district's leadership continue to dismiss the demands for racial-justice in our schools, for specific culturally competent professional development for teachers, for expanding the curriculum to include and amplify the voices of historically underserved communities, then you will be complicit in further perpetuating the master narrative and deeming many students and parents in your areas, less important and less significant. Now is the time to engage your moral compass and decide in the best interest of our students and our community – a commitment you made when elected.</p>
Erin	<p>I want to thank the board for finally giving our students a time to speak regarding nondiscrimination and equity within our district. As a district we have a long way to go to make this district an equitable place for our BIPOC students and staff as well as our students and staff who identify as part of our LGBTQ community.</p> <p>As a teacher at LCC I have had many of my current and past BIPOC and LGBTQ students detail incidents that they have encountered on our school campuses that have left them struggling with their sense of identity, social emotional health, and academics. At the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year we invited a group of our BIPOC students back to present to LCC staff what their experiences were like while they attended LCC. This group of alumni ranged from when the school first opened to graduating just the previous year. What came out of that was a sense of profound injustice, anger, and sadness that since LCC was founded in 1997 the experience of our BIPOC students has not changed. They continue to be treated as less than by the systematic structures within our district. Their concerns have never been adequately addressed by our district office with real and profound lasting change. Many situations have been offered band aid solutions for an individual student but time and time again we do not address the systemic issues within our district to stop the racism that is inherent in our structures and interactions.</p> <p>As a school district we always say we are leading the county or leading the state. In this we are not leading we are behind and honestly are dramatically behind. We need real ongoing anti-bias and anti-racism training and education for all our staff at all levels, we need to honestly look at our systems we have in place and dismantle the systematic racism in our district. We need to really listen to our BIPOC staff and students with regards to their experiences and ensure that their voices are heard in everything we do.</p>
Anonymous	<p>An Ethnic Studies Curriculum must be inclusive, not divisive! It cannot single out or attack any minority group!</p>

Name	Comment
Anonymous	<p>I strongly urge the board to listen to the students and work toward the following action items: Recognition and Support for Multicultural Holidays, Public and Visual Commitment by the Board, District and Equity Task Force/Committee [including students/admin/staff/guardians of color, run by consultants of color], Systemic Changes in Response to Racism in Schools, Required Educators and Staff Trainings, and Curriculum changes and Representation.</p> <p>The language of the board's equity policy BP 1415 is weak. It fails to name RACISM as the object of focus. Another example is the weak language regarding this agenda item on your executive summary. We need the Board to educate themselves so that they can recognize, name, and address racism in an effective manner. We need systemic changes to support student learning; we need to end white supremacy, acts of racism, and racist micro-aggressions; we need to end a lack of representation in curriculum, among their teachers, and in the school culture and calendar. We need real leadership, real commitment, and real action.</p>
Elaine Lewinnek	<p>As a professor of history and the mother of students in 8th and 4th grade, I am disappointed in our district's curriculum. We have outdated textbooks centered on white men and we have poorly-trained teachers who do not have the appropriate support to include analyses of Latinx, Asian, Asian-American, African, African-American, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, labor, immigration, and gender. Our youth are asking their teachers to diversify the curriculum. Please listen to the youth. To close the achievement gap between white students and students of color, to better serve our diverse students and prepare all students for a future in a diverse workforce, we need to address the lack of voices of color in the curriculum, the lack of faculty &amp; staff of color in the system, and the lack of ethnic studies options. Let's begin with in-service training for teachers, and a commitment to hear our youth.</p>