

Name	Public Comment
ITEM #2a - Closed Session / Conference with Labor Negotiators (Gov't Code Section 54957.6)	
Jodi Scheibe	The statistics absolutely don't show any reason to shut down schools. I will fight and remove my kids if you go online.
James	Football training at Torrey Pines, and surly LCC. KIDS ARE NOT WEARING MASKS, OR SOCIAL DISTANCING. Kids and coaches are in physical contact spotting each other, and are touching the same surfaces, cans, ropes/bands etc. POSTPONE FOOTBALL, at least until CIDF releases statement on Monday July 20th, TPFB and LCCFB training is a "fitness center" which should be CLOSED! IMMEDIATE ACTION is needed.
Anonymous	<p>As a parent of two children in the SDUHS district I'm commenting on the need to send children to school. My comments are substantiated by the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There have been zero deaths of anyone in San Diego county under the age of 19 and of the 436 "Associated" Covid-19 deaths only 22 are under the age of 50. "Associated" means Covid was not the sole reason. 2. There ARE solutions that provide a safe teaching environment. Clear barriers for teachers to students, outdoor learning and hybrid in-person/home learning can minimize any potential exposure. 3. Mental health of isolation and lack of social interactions weighs heavily on children. 4. There is unfortunately, no way a child can achieve the academic success learning through zoom as they can in-person and this will absolutely effect fundamental learning. 5. The 'fear' of bringing the virus home is no greater than someone going to the store, beach, restaurant or hanging out as every teen in Encinitas is currently doing.
Anonymous	<p>Students' and parents' preferences on school safety and academic success are enormously important in deciding whether and how to best re-open the schools in our district, but the choices of our teachers and staff are just as important. I trust this district to take extra care in making all of the teachers and staff members feel safe and protected; whether or not we decide to return to school in person, online, or in a hybrid setting, teachers should not feel pressure or strain on their job security.</p> <p>In the instance that a hybrid or in-person option is selected, I came up with a small proposal of how to socially distance the classroom setting. The student population (those who chose to be in the physical classroom) would be divided in half. In the morning, one half of the student population can attend in-classroom school while the second half learns at home, and after a break in the afternoon for teachers' prep periods, lunch, and a full round of sanitation, the second half of the student population attends school in the evening while the first half learns from home. This way, each classroom will be able to enforce social distancing, making it safer for students and staff, since there will be half of each original class size or fewer in attendance at a time. This would require an entirely new schedule with shorter class periods.</p>
Jason Kesler	Schools must be opened. We must get on with our lives. There are ways to do it safely — anything less than in-person is laziness and not really caring about students' learning.
Rob Ross	<p>I want to express my concern over reopening our schools in the fall of this year. The current infection rate in the state and county puts staff, students and citizens at too great of a risk. Please choose to open in the distance learning format this fall.</p> <p>Make no mistake, our lives are literally in your hands.</p> <p>Some have advocated for a choice for students to return, or to go to an independent learning model, but what choice does that leave staff? Teachers will be in crowded classrooms for at least six hours daily, exposing us to an unacceptable viral load.</p> <p>Some have suggested staff consider early retirement, but even that unfair suggestion fails to grasp the complexity of teachers' lives. In my department, many have family with, or personally have health conditions that put them at risk. My colleagues have expressed that they were alternately planning to resign, or making their peace with life.</p> <p>Some have suggested that in other countries, where schools have resumed, the infection rate has not grown, implying that children are not significant vectors, or transmitters. In each of those countries, there was a low and declining infection rate coupled with aggressive testing and tracing.</p> <p>If we return, imagine what happens when the first student tests positive? Staff member? Every student in that class will need to be quarantined. Every student in all other classes that student attends will quarantine. Every teacher of that student will quarantine. Imagine this happening regularly. Exponentially? How will this be conducive to learning? At that point, a shutdown will be unavoidable. Please show foresight and make the right decision now.</p> <p>The original concept for reopening was that we would isolate, bring down the infection rate to manageable levels, increase the speed and magnitude of testing, then come back to school with an ability to trace and isolate outbreaks. Sadly, our state has been unable to bring down this rate, making it dangerous and unethical to put the weight of reopening the economy on schools.</p> <p>The recent decision by LA and SD Unified was correct. This provides teachers adequate time to prepare for successful distance learning in the fall. If you delay, you create more uncertainty for staff and shorten the planning and preparation time we need.</p> <p>I know you are facing political pressure from many who want to reopen. Teachers and staff want to reopen as well. The simple fact is that we don't always get what we want in life. We are in the midst of a severe and dangerous pandemic. It is destructive to students, staff and parents. Even those that do not fear the virus themselves, are at risk to spread it to others in our community. You have a duty to protect them as well. I know it may not be comfortable, but if you search your conscience, you will see that remaining in the distance learning format, until it is safe to return, is the right thing to do.</p>
Anonymous	SDUHSD must reopen school safely in August. For the benefit of students' mental health and academic progress, in person teaching and communication is crucial. Understandable teachers are anxious, but so are everyone. Teachers are paid to do a job and they must. There are ways to make sure the reopening is safe: 1. Mandatory mask 2. alternate attendance so all students will have at least two days in school 3. temp check upon entering school 4. social distancing in classroom 5. bring classes outdoor if feasible 6. pay for teacher covid test every week 7. give teacher loudspeaker so she can be heard with mask and face plate 8. school nurse to do spot check of students everyday 8. protocol to follow if covid case appears in school. There is a will, there is a way. I urge the Board to reopen the schools safely rather than falling back to the online teaching mode which has been proven to be a joke.

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Duncan Brown	<p>I can not emphasize the importance of the task at hand. I am not one for melodramatics, but the decision to reopen schools will be the most important decision that you have ever been asked to make. This decision clearly represents a potential for a life or death.</p> <p>As SDFA President, my central aim is to keep my members safe and healthy while at school. While we continue to look at blended or hybrid models, distance learning is the only practical choice here. Teachers in this district are the best in San Diego County. For many years, the district has taken pride in and been outspoken about their teaching staff. We are professional, dedicated, passionate and selfless in the serving of our students and families. Now we are asking you and the district to protect us in the face of a global pandemic.</p> <p>We love our students. We would love nothing more than to come back to school. Distance teaching is extremely difficult and time consuming, and it lacks the connectedness that drives our passion to work with kids. We certainly understand the impact of distance learning on students, but with the recent increases in positive cases in state, and San Diego County, we have a responsibility to err on the side of caution to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. Please consider each student and each staff member as you would a member of your own family.</p>
Anonymous	<p>My spouse attended and graduated from SDUHSD schools. Our daughter is excelling at Diegueno. I volunteer extensively. We love this district and especially its teachers. We do not feel safe returning to in-person learning, and cannot participate in any program that could endanger the health and lives of our beloved teachers, school staff, and community. We've spoken with many other parents who agree, while watching others flout health mandates for months, letting their children gather, and now demanding their kids be sent back into the classroom sans masks. The math and science is clear: Covid19 is spreading more than ever through our community. At the very least, masks and modifications that allow for distancing and ventilation should be required. Focusing in-person resources on the most in-need (special ed, lower SES, children of essential workers) and properly preparing distance learning should be the district's priorities. The district promised this distance option and needs to deliver. We expect our places of learning to hold fast to science, and facts, and the basic humanity of protecting the health and safety of our community. Please consider what forcing teachers into unsafe working conditions would teach our students.</p> <p>Some questions: -What happens when someone is exposed to Covid? Will we be informed? Will classes or entire schools go online? Will we spend the year bouncing back and forth? -How can you send students and teachers into classrooms without proper ventilation and not require masks? -What happens when a student's health is seriously impaired because the state's health guidelines weren't followed by the district? Isn't this opening our district and the individuals of this board up to lawsuits? -What happens when a student bullies another by violating their space, shouting in their face, for example? How is this, and classes where students must sit apart not doing group work, not having teachers able to walk among them for classroom management and instructional guidance, protecting students' mental health? -How are we providing an equitable education if distance learning is not the standard but some marginal offering? Are students who have health issues meant to miss out on the honors courses and electives they've worked hard to prepare for? Again, isn't failure to provide this education opening the district up to ADA lawsuits? -What happens when many expert, experienced teachers are forced to quit rather than risk their lives or the lives of their families? How will schools staff classes?</p> <p>Our teachers have rolled with plenty. We've asked them to accept huge class sizes and active shooter drills and they've continued to teach brilliantly. I hope the district sees this is not something they can all just roll with. I want these wonderful teachers to teach my child, not have to quit. I want the stability of a well-planned online program and set staff assignments, not the chaos of last year again and again. Please hear those of us in the district who may have been quieter, because we're glad to do our part to support our schools and students. Please protect our teachers.</p>
Brooke O'Neill	<p>I have been a teacher for 20 yrs, 6 in this district. I love teaching, I love my students. In June when we were surveyed about returning to school in the fall I chose hybrid or full brick and mortar. I was optimistic at that moment, I thought by now things would have improved. Sadly they have only gotten worse. As a mom we decided we will not send our three elementary aged children back into the classroom for the Fall or even until infection rate numbers are down and it is safe to do. As a teacher I am scared to be asked to return to my classroom knowing full well that there is no money to make smaller class sizes (my average class size is 40), hire more custodians to deep clean (under normal circumstances I am lucky to get soap, tissues and paper towels), update ventilation systems, or even to keep up with PPE equipment needs. Who will check the temperature of every kid that walks on campus, will you enforce masks? If you decide to bring the kids back, both kids and staff members will get it its a fact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19 are they required to quarantine for 2-3 weeks? Is their sick leave covered, paid? • If that teacher has 5 classes a day with 30 students each, do all 150 of those students need to then stay home and quarantine for 14 days? • Do all 150 of those students now have to get tested? Who pays for those tests? How are the parents and other staff being notified? Does everyone in each of those kids' families need to get tested? Who pays for that? • What if someone who lives in the same house as a teacher tests positive? Does that teacher now need to take 14 days off of work to quarantine? Is that time off covered? Paid? • Where is the district going to find a substitute teacher who will work in a classroom full of exposed, possibly infected students for substitute pay? • Substitutes teach in multiple schools. What if they are diagnosed with COVID-19? Do all the kids in each school now have to quarantine and get tested? Who is going to pay for that? • What is this stress going to do our campuses? How does it affect their health and well-being? How does it affect their ability to teach? What is it going to do to our kids? • How will it affect students and faculty when the first teacher in their school dies from this? The first parent of a student who brought it home? The first student? <p>As you sit in this Zoom call reading this statement because you didnt think it was safe enough to sit with maybe 10 people in a conference room for a few hours at risk of Covid 19, than how can you think of sending children and staff into crowded classrooms for 6-7 hours a day multiple days a week? Distance learning for the fall is the only option as conditions are worse than March. Make the right decision today and allow us the opportunity to build a quality distance learning platform, and the knowledge that our district values the lives and wellbeing of both it's students and staff.</p> <p>Thank you, Brooke O'Neill</p>
Brenda Simon	<p>Certainty is essential for planning purposes. All schools should remain online only except for one daily session of PE on the field for each student (on a voluntary basis). Masks and social distancing should be required. No other option is safe at this point.</p>

Name	Public Comment
Anonymous	<p>Unless you are planning to spend the semester sitting in a classroom with several groups of 40+ students rotating through it every day, it is both unconscionable and hypocritical for the school board, as a group of decision-makers, to consider whether to open schools based on anything other than FACTS and DATA. Items to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You are having your board meeting virtually. Why? For safety, despite the fact that there are only 5 school board members. There are more working adults in a school office than on this school board. 2. Students in the district have been getting sick, even before school has started. Rumors are swirling about outbreaks due to parties, football players working out together, and more. Again, this is before school even opens. 3. What is the average age of district employees? Do you care about your employees? What about the age of students' parents, grandparents, and other loved ones they see often? What underlying conditions are out there in our community? Children tend to not get horribly sick or to die from coronavirus (though some do), but they can pass it on. This isn't just a school issue, it's a community issue. Have you done your homework? 4. Did you know that both districts and individual school board members would be open to lawsuits if students, staff, and their families get sick based on the decisions you will be making about the upcoming school year? And people will inevitably get sick. You, Beth, Maureen, Melisse, Joyce, Kristin, and even Robert, could be held personally responsible for hospitalizations, traumas, permanent physical damage, and even death, for a large number of your students, staff, and their families. 5. As parents of SDUHSD students, we love our teachers, administrators, staff members, and schools, but are worried that you do not. That you only care about politics, dollars, and the loudest screaming voices. Many of us have quietly trusted you to make the best decisions for our community, but we're worried that you are going to choose to try and take the easy way out simply so that you don't have to go through the trouble of designing a solid, comprehensive online learning system. Please prove us wrong. If you choose to open fully, not require masks, and to continue to cram large numbers of students into too-small classrooms just as you always have, be prepared for the quiet factions of trusting parents to become much, much more vocal and a lot less trusting. <p>You need to prove that you care, and that you are willing to do the work to keep our community safe, even if it's difficult. Because if you aren't, what are you doing herea?</p>
Jessica Mortensen	<p>Dear SDUHSD Board Members,</p> <p>First and foremost, I want to thank you for supporting all of us, staff and students, and our safety. From the information and feedback we have received thus far from the top, it feels as though they are sorely out of touch with what we see and deal with as our reality. I'm sure you've heard similar stories from many, but this is my world:</p> <p>I teach art at CCA and my classes run 40-49 students each. My room is also utilized for 5 periods a day between two teachers (1st-Conservatory) and sees 220+ students. Classes are 9-12 grade mixed, so they touch a huge part of the school population throughout the day. We don't have individual desks as it is a studio. Students utilize every square foot of the room and share art supplies. We don't receive near enough funding to have individual supplies for each student. In digital classes students frequently are sharing computers and equipment. Cleaning at night simply isn't enough. Social distancing? Just not possible. Running a hybrid instead of face to face teaching, so simultaneously teaching in person and online? All of my periods are combo'd, mostly singletons, as is common in the VPA world. This means I have essentially 12 preps for Fall alone in the hybrid scenario. Arts classes frequently are the courses that our special needs students mainstream in during the day, meaning we commonly have students with heightened needs. These are just some generalities about most VPA classrooms.</p> <p>Personally, I am a 2x heart surgery survivor with my last major surgery just 2 years ago. I have several autoimmune conditions. I am the sole caretaker of my 80 yr old mother as my sister has terminal brain cancer and is unable to help. If I get sick it is serious business.</p> <p>I shouldn't be afraid that my district won't protect me. There are many, many of my fellow teachers with stories comparable to mine. We are not expendable. We love our careers and pour our hearts into what we do. We truly miss our students and can't wait to be back with them, but it has to be safe. In person just isn't right now.</p> <p>Distance learning last year was a 180 of our classrooms and we had next to no time to plan what ended up being a moving target through the term. Even with all of these challenges, my students stunned me with their incredible work and effort. With a real plan and solid expectations for distance learning this Fall, I am confident that we will be academically successful.</p> <p>I hope that our district and those making the final decisions do the right thing to keep students and staff safe. The idea of losing anyone is devastating and avoidable.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jessi Mortensen</p>
Lily Bolig	<p>My name is Lily Bolig and I am a fully credentialed teacher who has taught at SDA for the past 7 years. I am writing to encourage you to vote for only distance learning for at least the next school semester. With the expectation of one, the board members are not currently credentialed teachers, and none have spent recent and significant time in the public classroom. Classes are loud, vibrant, and full of energy and interaction. This is what makes teaching in a classroom great. However, this is also what makes the classroom a dangerous place.</p> <p>We are currently in the middle of a COVID-19 pandemic. This virus is highly contagious and easily transmitted from one person to another, especially in enclosed spaces. Additionally, there are a high number of people, including children, who are asymptomatic carriers and can spread this disease to others without knowing. People are dying at rapidly increasing rates and going back to school puts the lives of myself, my family, my coworkers, and the children we teach in danger.</p> <p>The LA and SD Union School Districts made the correct and mature choice to have online-only learning this Fall. I applaud their courage of leadership and hope we follow their lead. If student and staff safety is truly the biggest concern, as Dr. Haley repeatedly says, then we should not be considering any in-person classes or any brick-and-mortar learning at all for at least the Fall term. In fact, CA State Superintendent Tony Thurmond announced yesterday that if current COVID trends continue schools "shouldn't reopen" in the Fall.</p> <p>Education is important; I believe this wholeheartedly. However, one semester of education -or even one year of education- is not more important than actual human lives.</p> <p>As a School Board Trustee, you have the hallowed task of shaping students' lives through your votes. In this case, not only are you responsible for their curriculum but you are also voting to protect their lives - or risk them. This may sound dramatic. It is not.</p> <p>Teachers are human beings. We have responsibilities outside of the classroom. We have, over the years, been asked to do so much more than teaching, and we have risen to every occasion. We are expected to become social emotional counselors for our students, ensuring our students are fed, loved, and cared for. It is expected that we shield our students from bullets. Now, our school board will be voting on whether or not I or my family members will die because it is too inconvenient to open the school year with distance learning. Enough is enough.</p> <p>You must vote in favor of opening the school year fully in distance learning.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>

Name	Public Comment
Anonymous	<p>I am a proud teacher of SDUHSD and I believe it is paramount for our citizens listening today to know the SINCERE safety concerns we teachers have about the reopening of school this fall. We KNOW that kids belong in school, we WANT them with us, we HOPE that we can give them everything we strive to give them, but we KNOW the district is not prepared to keep them safe. I have followed closely the various committee work that has been undertaken. The committees are working tirelessly, every day, striving to create the best environment for our students. What I need you to know is that it is NOT enough. The safety measures being recommended are inadequate. We are not even talking about physical distancing, mask wearing, or any safety measures that as recommended by the CDC and the state of California reopening guidelines. What will happen when students refuse to comply with teachers who want to protect their own safety? Please, do not let this calamity unfold. Please remember, we ALL want to reopen. Whether we have the resources and the will to do it SAFELY is the question.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I absolutely think it is a mistake to have any form of in-person schooling of students in the fall. All classes should be online to start the school year. With the COVID-19 pandemic raging through California, it is irresponsible to insist that students and teachers return to campus, especially when we can't even eat indoors at a restaurant safely. The reason that children have such low COVID-19 numbers right now is that they have been quarantined at home the most stringently since March. They have been home and not out to the grocery store or other errands or at the park or at camps or classes. It's not that they don't catch the virus, it is that they haven't been exposed. If you make them go to school, you are asking for an outbreak and this affects more than just the students, but the teachers and their families as well.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I wrote a letter to all members of the board, plus the superintendent, principals in the district concerning the ongoing debate about in-school versus distance learning in the Fall. Please refer to that emailed letter for my full message, but within that document I provide insights and context on the subject from the point of view of a parent and hope you will all take the time to read it. In short, I vote to open the schools for in-class learning in the Fall for the health and well-being of our children. I grew up with the understanding that Teachers Are Heroes and believe firmly that teaching is an essential occupation for the health and well being, not to mention education of our children. Just like medical workers, educators are essential to the mental and physical health of our children. My letter provides some ideas on how that might be achieved safely for the instructors. There should be a choice for those who feel in class instruction is critical and positive for their children. There have been virtually zero deaths for children in our district's age bracket in the state of California, as such this is not about the "safety" of our children. For full context please read, and feel free to make public my letter for full context. Thank you. Parent/Author and advocate to open up our classrooms in the Fall.</p>
Erin Charnow	<p>Hi, I am concerned with opening for in person learning in the fall. I am concerned not just with the health and safety of our students and staff but the financial cost of opening a distance learning and in person option. I wonder what the financial cost is to open in person education and meet CDC health and safety guidelines? I know our district, like all school districts, is very strapped for cash and I know safety measures cost money and can be very expensive. I have heard over and over again from our site and district administration that health and safety of students and staff are the primary concern so if this is true I wonder what will need to be cut to actually ensure the health and safety of our students and staff if we do in person learning? Are we as a community willing to incur those costs to have in person learning?</p> <p>I believe if we are only talking about what we want but don't think about what we have to give up to have in person learning this fall and maintain health and safety we are only having half the conversation.</p> <p>I also have many questions about what happens when we have to quarantine. What are the financial and social emotional costs to our staff and students if we have multiple situations when we have to quarantine? I wonder what happens to a student if their period 3 teacher has to quarantine due to a student in another one of their periods? Do we have a sub come in? Does that class go to distance learning? How does that on campus student now access one class that is on distance learning? What if a sub has to quarantine? How many schools and classes were they in? Do each of those classes have to quarantine? Do we even have enough subs? I know a lot of our subs are retired teachers so they are all in a high risk bracket so how many subs did we just lose? How many adults do you think will be willing to come into a sub job in which they see close to 200 students (upwards of 42 at a time) in an enclosed environment with recirculated air, no masks, and nobody social distancing?</p> <p>In the end, the question really is are we willing to spend the money to ensure our staff and students are actually safe if we do in person learning or are we willing to relax health and safety measures for in person learning. If we do relax health and safety measures and a student or staff member contracts the corona virus and gets seriously ill or dies? Will we then regret our decision to go in person? Are we as a district willing to say it costs too much to protect our students and staff?</p> <p>A solution though is that we can go all online until we can ensure our staff and students are safe. I do not believe we should rush to open without being able to commit to safety guidelines. I know their is concern from parents and our community about distance learning. I fully get it nobody was happy with distance learning in the spring. It was emergency and rushed. If we go distance learning it will not look like the spring. If we commit to distance learning now teachers will have time to prepare, innovate, and make something amazing.</p>

Name	Public Comment
Katie Martinez	<p>Dear School Board Members,</p> <p>I am writing because I think it is critical that the voice of a SDUHSD teacher is heard. I am extremely worried about the well being of our students, staff, and community during this COVID pandemic. With the number of positive cases increasing in San Diego, I am very concerned about our safety as we return to school in August! As an LCC teacher, I see 150-200 students in a normal 2 day period of time. That is 150-200 more points of exposure that I am putting myself at risk of getting sick, not to mention all the exposure points of each of those students. Like all other teachers, I want nothing but to be back in the classroom with my students. I didn't get into this profession to be behind a computer or to sit at a desk. However, I do not feel safe in doing so. I am a relatively healthy teacher, but I am still considered at high risk due to my asthmatic background. In addition to my own health, I must worry about the health of my two elementary age children, my husband, and my 70+ year old mother who undergoes chemotherapy each month to ward off leukemia. I am extremely fearful that I will get COVID from being in the classroom due to our high class sizes, shared materials (ex: Chromebooks and calculators), and the lack of social distancing and mask wearing from many of our students.</p> <p>I understand and sympathize with the concerns of parents over their children's mental health concerns, the need to socialize, and then need for parents to get back to work. Like I said, I have 2 children of my own and feel this need too. However, my number 1 priority right now is to protect my family, friends, and community from getting sick. Children have not been widely tested for COVID and therefore, it is unclear how many children are COVID carriers or how/if it will be passed along to adults. While most young children have been sheltered at home and not widely exposed to the illness, many our teenagers have not followed health protocols and could be asymptomatic and therefore, easily pass it on to hundreds of other people just by attending school.</p> <p>I strongly feel as though we need to start the school year with a full distance learning model to allow San Diego to get the pandemic under control. Our local areas (La Costa, Cardiff, etc.) have become hot spots in the last couple of weeks. Even under a hybrid model, we are exposing our students, staff, and therefore, families and community to greater risks of becoming sick. Now is our opportunity to show San Diego our strengths in teaching and supporting students! Allow us to be innovators in a digital classroom until we can be sure that we are not going to be sick!</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and support!</p> <p>Sincerely, Katie Martinez La Costa Canyon Math Teacher</p>
Anonymous	<p>First of all, I want to say that I love our district, and I am a product of our district. However, at this moment, I am not proud of our district. This has been an extremely difficult time for everyone. Although I want nothing more than to be back with my students, it is unsafe. Teachers are asked to stand in front of a bullet for our students, but I will not willingly and knowingly put myself, my child, or my family in danger. Unfortunately, I know people who have become sick with COVID and died, and it could have been avoided. Asking teachers to return to the classroom in a community where the virus has spiked due to lack of following protocol does not assure me that safety measures will be enforced. Additionally, I do not have faith in our parents to enforce safety precautions. I believe it is not only morally wrong to ask us to return, but it is also fiscally irresponsible.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am very worried about the safety of the teachers, students and community if there is in person classes. Please provide distance learning where the teachers teach and not just upload work to be turned in. Please don't fail the kids. Please have the teachers provide lessons daily to the students. Thank you!</p>
Anonymous	<p>My name is , I am a former member of the RSF School board with a child in the SDUHSD. I am writing regarding the reopening of the schools this fall during the pandemic and the danger that this poses to the children, the teachers and the community at large. I feel it would be irresponsible of the board to insist on students and teachers return to the classroom given our current pandemic. As this disaster evolves there may be an opportunity to bring both back but until a vaccine is well in hand and being distributed I STRONGLY protest putting the children's and teacher's lives at risk. My child is a rising Senior. She is well aware of what she would be missing out on this year by going to distance learning, she still feels it is the right choice. Please do not expose our community, our educators and our children by insisting on in school instruction. I know this is a very hard decision but oddly it should be the easiest one you make this year. Best regards, Hon.</p>
Anonymous	<p>If you decide to have an option for in-person instruction, please make mask wearing mandatory. Anyone who does not want to wear a mask along with those who feel it's too risky can do the online option. If you don't require it, many will opt out of wearing a mask. Masks will greatly help in reducing transmission of the coronavirus.</p>
Mirjana Zeremski	<p>Absolutely unacceptable to open any school at any schedule for on site students attendance given endless number of reasons obvious to any reasonable person due to unconstrained spread of Covid 19 infection. Exposure of students in schools and school personnel is just going to worsen already troublesome situation in local community and broader.</p>
Tracy Yates	<p>I ask that we take conservative measures as we decide to reopen schools. In March, education turned on a dime and we learned a great deal in process. We can offer high quality education at a distance. Staying home and staying safe won't take much longer if we take it seriously and JUST DO IT. The lives and deaths of our entire community deserve to be accounted for and respected. If we do the hard work now, in a year, it will be over.</p> <p>The medical community and the world at large do not know the extent to which COVID-19 effects the body. My family had the virus in late March. My husband, an avid runner and triathlete before COVID, has worked his way UP TO two mile jogs where it doesn't take him three days to recover. My 10 year old daughter is an avid soccer player and plays on a club team. She now has an inhaler for practices where she struggles to breathe, an after effect of the virus. My husband and I, and our 5 children, are all healthy, active people with no pre-existing conditions.</p> <p>This isn't about freedoms being taken or given. This is about lives being lost or lived. 136,000 American families now grieve the loss of someone they love, they celebrate holidays with, check in with, have Sunday dinners with. Having already lost my first husband at 38, I can tell you that suffering that loss never goes away. The perceived suffering of learning from home for another 6 months or even a year is transient.</p> <p>Again, in March, education turned on a dime. Overnight, we reinvented our classroom, our pedagogy, our lesson plans. We were the very definition of flexible. Reopening the economy cannot rest solely on one industry: education. Every industry in this country should be responsible for the innovation, flexibility, and shear will that is needed to withstand a few more months of being uncomfortable. Human beings are resilient by nature. Our kids will bounce back, our community will rebound, our country will survive, but we must make the hard choices now to ensure that our kids and our entire community survive, lives intact.</p>
Maria Al-Shamma	<p>Please follow health guidelines. LAUSD and San Diego Unified made the smart step to provide full virtual instruction until it is healthy to return to physical school for all. Please follow their lead for the health of students, educators, all SDUHSD staff and the full community your district serves. It is the responsible decision to make during this pandemic which is currently out of control. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Maria AlShamma, Encinitas</p>

Name	Public Comment
Anonymous	With the COVID-19 numbers increasing, it is unsafe to send students back to school. We urge SDUHSD to start all classes online. Please give teachers enough time to prepare to start school with clear plans in place. We don't want to help spread the disease to students, teachers, staff, and their families at home.
Lauren Monahan	<p>I was a student of SDUHSD & now I'm a teacher here. I love it and want it to remain the best district in the area!</p> <p>While I wish so much that it were in person, I'm on the ground here, and really getting jealous of the countries that were able to safely reopen who proved that it can be done because I'm looking at what it would take to replicate those results and I can't see any feasible way to do it.</p> <p>I can't find a country that dared open with cases rising, more than 15 in a classroom, no quality air purification, swapping classrooms all day long, and then to top it off...masks only optional????? The closest I can find to our proposed conditions are meat-packing plants, and it did NOT turn out well.</p> <p>Sure, kids are less susceptible, but these are teens (some are adults), and the kind of viral load we'd be giving them (they now say viral load is one of the greatest predictors for who will get the sickest)? Insane.</p> <p>We'd be doing an unprecedented science experiment with the health of our students and staff. For what??? A countable number of months of somewhat better instruction?</p> <p>Our students are NOT guinea pigs.</p> <p>Our staff are not guinea pigs.</p> <p>And the sad part is, I can't see any way it will last longer than one month just for the lack of substitute teachers alone (we had a severe shortage before--three teachers quarantining for 2 weeks alone would probably wipe us out), which will mean haphazard distance learning as opposed to consistent, planned, and prepared distance learning.</p> <p>I hate recommending distance learning because it is so challenging for everyone, and as one who is an English teacher and one of your most active "emotional lifeguards" catching kids with suicidal ideation, for the past 20 years it's tough. But in my professional opinion as the one who actually does the catching (not an "in-theory" person who hasn't talked 30-50 teens down, who's never filled out a CPS report) I grudgingly think the emotional health of kids will be better off too via distance learning considering our limitations.</p> <p>I can still catch and focus on emotional health when I'm not focused on catching physical health, and the thought of a kid getting peer-pressured into unmasking/getting close to kids then accidentally bringing the virus to someone they love (parent, grandparent, friend, teacher) who they then harm (or maybe kill)??? They could make themselves orphans or orphan a favorite teacher's kids for an innocent mistake since teens have been proven to spread it. That will scar them in a way I can't imagine.</p> <p>There are no good options here. There are only bad/hard decisions to be made. I favor distance learning, though, for all of the above reasons (plus many more).</p> <p>And lastly, why is this meeting virtual? You wisely chose safety for the community while you are now thoughtfully considering allowing my colleagues and our students to stew in the COVID soup like some pandemic science experiment for 6 hours a day. I hope you use that same wisdom to grant the whole community comparable safety while giving teachers time to plan the best distance learning we can.</p>
Anonymous	It is absolutely paramount that our children be afforded a full time in class education. Science and data fully support the FACTS that children are overwhelmingly not affected by Covid and do not spread the virus. Our children should absolutely not be held hostage by a few teachers who feel vulnerable to Covid. They can educate from home through distance learning if they feel that way. School is an ESSENTIAL SERVICE and teachers are essential workers. The children belong in school!!!!!! Anything short of that is a failure to our youth.
Maura Leonard	Based upon the current rise in cases and hospitalizations in San Diego due to Covid-19 (a deadly and highly contagious virus without a vaccine), I am requesting that our Board hit pause on the physical reopening of our schools to protect the safety of students and staff in our district. Allow all of us to focus our energy on teaching kids safely through distance learning at least for the first quarter of the year, and consider coming back to school physically when it safer. I've been working on fun and engaging lessons all summer long for my students, because I value them and want to give them the best education I can. Let's start distance and then return to campus as soon as we can. SDUHSD=Safe Schools
Anonymous	I can't imagine teaching from home or kids learning virtually again and have it be successful or have a more positive effect than our March through June experience.. For so many reasons, we need to give the option to go back to in classroom learning. We have to coexist with this virus, but also provide what we scientifically KNOW to effectively safeguard from the virus...masks and distancing. Even if the at school learning time is modified, the school environment is where kids will thrive socially and emotionally. We can have small cohorts of kids learning together to help contain contact. We need time to plan safety protocols and a curriculum more suited to our plan (whatever that might be). I propose that we shorten the school year and use those days to prepare teachers who are "essential" to the academic growth of our students. We need a go back to the classroom plan, even if modified.this has to be the goal.
Anonymous	As a teacher in the district, I miss my students dearly, I worry about their well-being, and would love nothing better than to see them in person on campus. I would love for life to go "back to normal." However, life today is not normal. With the upward trajectory of COVID19 infections in Encinitas, Carlsbad, and surrounding areas; the lack of funds for schools to implement adequate and sustained safety protocols; the mere "guidelines" for safety that schools are not mandated to follow, including the use of face coverings, I do not feel that schools will be safe working environments for teachers, staff members, and students. I understand the argument that students need to go back to campus for their mental health. However, if we go back to campus in the fall, it will not be the same as it was in the fall of 2019, and that jarring difference may impact students' mental health. I also lament the negative mental health impact that will occur when students get sick, their loved ones get sick, their teachers get sick, and/or when people in our school community die. I understand that parents may need to go back to work, but schools are not day care centers. Teachers and schools are not responsible for getting life "back to normal" or for the recovery of the economy. Seriously, if education were considered important in our society, wouldn't schools be adequately funded? I am concerned about many issues with distance learning, but I feel that if I am given enough time to prepare a quality education for my students, then those distance learning concerns pale in comparison with the health and safety of our teachers, staff members, and most of all, students.

Name	Public Comment
Timothy James Stiven	<p>Dear SDUHSD Board Members,</p> <p>First and foremost, I want to thank you for supporting all of us, staff and students, and our safety. From the information and feedback we have received thus far from the top, it feels as though they are sorely out of touch with what we see and deal with as our reality. I am here to promote the possibilities of distance learning. My wife started working with UCLA Extension back in 1992. Distance learning can be dynamic, if we have the tools and the motivation to make it work.</p> <p>In the past month, during the summer, my students have created two global events with students from Nigeria, Egypt, Qatar, Liberia, Kenya along with students from Texas and Florida. All live, all online. All from their homes. They plan another seminar in August. Another group sent an asynchronous video to San Diego Comic-con that recorded with a student live in Panama. It will premier next week on thier YouTube Channel . If Comic-con can do it. Harvard can, Yale can. MIT can. If the kids of our district are doing it right now, on their own, why can't we?</p> <p>Why are we twisting ourselves into knots when we cannot guarantee the safety of our students and staff? Sure we can go all outside, but without shelter? To be asked to do so during the hottest months of the year, who says that out loud? The highest rated school district in the County? The State? We decide to go inside, without masks and without distancing, because it was too hard? Try harder.</p> <p>SPED, special needs populations social emotional learning, attendance issues MUST be faced. But so do the students, families and staff who are immunosuppressed!</p> <p>My wife just got out of cancer surgery; and I am 56 years old. I shouldn't be afraid that my district won't protect me. There are many, many of my fellow teachers with stories comparable to mine. We are not expendable. We love our careers and pour our hearts into what we do. We truly miss our students and can't wait to be back with them, but it has to be safe. In person just isn't right now.</p> <p>Distance learning last year was a 180 of our classrooms and we had next to no time to plan what ended up being a moving target through the term. Even with all of these challenges, my students stunned me with their incredible work and effort. With a real plan and solid expectations for distance learning this Fall, I am confident that we will be academically successful.</p> <p>I hope that our district and those making the final decisions do the right thing to keep students and staff safe. The idea of losing anyone is devastating and avoidable.</p> <p>Sincerely, Timothy James Stiven CCA Teacher of the Year 2010 Coordinator, Envision Conservatory for the Humanities at Canyon Crest Academy</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am shocked that we are even considering any kind of in person learning at this time. I am a mother of a high school student and will not allow him to attend classes in person until I know for a fact it's safe. He does not like on-line learning, but his health and that of his teachers is more important. We know so little about this virus, and contrary to what some people believe, healthy people and children DO die from it. Please put health and safety first! Make the decision to start online now, so teachers are prepared! The school board isn't meeting in person, is it? Invest in quality materials for online learning. They are out there. Thank you</p>
Anonymous	<p>Though this pandemic feels as if it has been going on for an eternity, it has in fact only been a few months. While health experts have learned a few important things, no one has yet managed to establish a safe, reliably effective treatment. As far as prevention, the best we have so far are recommendations for physical separation of at least six feet, face coverings and hand washing. Those three things seem impractical for students, teachers and staff to maintain throughout a school year. Further challenges facing schools this year are the expectations that the virus seems to spread more easily indoors and may spread through the air with prolonged exposure. Even more frustrating, a significant portion of the infected population remain asymptomatic, which sounds encouraging at first (I might get it and not even feel it), but is silently deadly since these carriers appear to still be able (perhaps even likely) to spread the virus around. Checking for symptoms, while obviously providing some indication of who should be isolated, is not a reliable way to catch all possible vectors for spread. Lastly, while data collection and reporting continues to evolve, the information we have so far suggests that when communities start to signal that some aspects of life are trying to return to normal, we soon start to see signs of the virus spreading.</p> <p>All of this is to say that a typical school setting is perhaps an ideal situation for the spread of this virus. If we were to attempt to carry on as normal, I suspect a significant portion of the students, teachers, staff and families will be exposed throughout the school year. Surely schools are considering how to implement some of the preventive practices, but classrooms are relatively small, closed spaces and I suspect that enforcing such practices as distancing and masks will be at least as disruptive to the learning environment as the infected missing out on instruction. Any situation where people know they are in a risky environment will likely increase stress levels and anxiety, which are also unlikely to make for a positive learning experience.</p> <p>Some will surely argue that children have been blessedly largely unaffected by this virus, which is, indeed, a wonderful relief to parents. Evidence seems to be mounting to suggest further that children aren't good at passing it on to others, which would be even better news. Naturally, children are not the only people at a school. Teachers are a rare breed of kind, loving and selfless people of whom we ask a lot. Asking them to put their lives, and the lives of their families, at significant risk is just too much at this time. I would not suggest that keeping children out of school for an extended period of time is a good path to long term growth and development. What I am asking for is more time (one semester, perhaps?) to let health experts continue to learn more before we give up hope.</p>

Name	Public Comment
Alexis Hillenbrand	<p>I am writing to you to voice my concerns about potentially opening school in just a few weeks. While I wish that we could return to school under normal circumstances, we know that is simply not going to happen. My favorite part of my job is working with students in class and I miss that interaction. While I found Distance Learning to not be my preferred way of teaching, the reason schools opted to go this route was to maintain the health and safety of students, families, teachers and staff. Considering this, I cannot for the life of me understand why we are even considering opening up schools at this point, especially since cases are on the rise and in a worse position than we were before.</p> <p>I am trying to wrap my head around how teachers who have one hundred and ninety students are able to safely and effectively teach in a classroom given the current CDC guidelines. Even with hybrid schedules the teachers and staff are still exposed to hundreds of students. While I know I have been wearing a mask, socially distancing, and generally trying to be "safe", we know not everyone has been doing the same and it terrifies me to be in such a small space with so many students who may not have followed the same safety precautions. This puts not only myself at risk, but my whole family. At this point, we have received zero information and/or training regarding increased safety measures to be implemented in our classrooms to protect students and teachers. This just seems to be a recipe for disaster.</p> <p>Additionally, there has been absolutely no information shared with the teachers and staff regarding what happens when an outbreak occurs at school and a teacher, staff member or student becomes infected. There are so many aspects to consider and questions to be asked. Do we need to use our sick days? Are we responsible for sub plans? Would we receive differential pay? Are there enough subs? If I am in the hospital, what about my children? Who will help with them? The list goes on. Not to mention that those of us who have aging parents or family members that are immune compromised will not be able to see these people during the school year at all due to not being able to quarantine from others for at least 14 days. I can't help but ask, is it worth it?</p> <p>Honestly, I am disappointed with the lack of communication and input the district has sought from teachers and staff during this time. Due to this, I don't trust that the district has our best interests at heart. The safety of everyone should be considered. It is my hope that SDUHSD prioritizes safety above everything else, and opts for full Distance Learning until it is deemed safe to return to the classroom.</p>
Anonymous	Parents deserve a seat at the table during the School reopening discussions.
Jerry McCorkle	The request to post comments, blah,blah, are fairly ridiculous for this particular subject. Doctors all over the country continue to grace news shows and say there is next to no chance kids with Covid-19 will have any kind of serious impact from the disease and next to none (without preexisting conditions) will even know they have it. Likewise, the experts saying there is little to no chance kids will pass the disease along. There are numerous links with doctors going into detail on this. Like: https://video.foxnews.com/v/6171828028001#sp=show-clips and https://video.foxnews.com/v/6171828028001#sp=show-clips and many others. Has anyone done serious research? Our kids in no way seem to be a priority for our teachers. Teachers need to do their jobs like grocery store workers, Target, Walmart, postal service and on and on. Step up to the plate or change professions. Step up, like the rest of the world (we are in a very small minority of counties that have closed schools and ignored science) and prepare our children and the country for the future.
Hedieh Naraghi-Smythe	As a teacher in this district (26 years), I am greatly anxious about the notion of returning to school with full classes, 5 days a week. I don't know how we will social distance in classes of 35 kids, how will we enforce kids wearing masks, how will we control break time? How will we sanitize each classroom after each group leaves? As the Covid-19 cases surge in California, I feel it is irresponsible of us as educators to return to school. I want the district to train me to be an effective teacher online for the time being, instead of putting my life, the lives of my colleagues and students at risk. All of us teachers wish to be in our classrooms, with our students, but under the current situation, I do not feel safe to be back at school.
Anonymous	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I am a science teacher in the district and am shocked that there is a discussion, held virtually, as to whether or not schools should physically reopen. The science is clear- indoor activities with many different people from outside of your household is putting those at high risk for transmitting or contracting the virus (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html, https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-how-is-covid-19-transmitted). That is the rationale behind the closure in the first place. We are in a much worse situation now than when schools first closed in March. Risk could be reduced with greatly reduced class sizes (6-8 students per class), cohorts, hourly disinfecting, materials for every individual but there is absolutely no budget or personnel to support such a risk reduction. What's going to happen when a student falls ill or dies? What about staff? The potential for guilt and trauma is sky high, what resources will be there to support communities then? This is not a hypothetical, it's a matter of time. Being back in the classroom is going to be nothing like it was pre-pandemic. Students will be working individually, at computers, doing virtual lessons. There will be no hands-on labs, no cooperative grouping, no 1 on 1 assistance (unless on computers), no moving about the classroom during block periods, no greeting students at the door, none of what we all miss about being with our students. Why are we even considering risking lives for that? The only scenario that keeps us all safe is distance learning. Making that decision now and training staff on best-practices and creating cohesion at school sites will greatly improve the educational experience that students receive. It's no one's first choice but it is the only safe and responsible choice to be made.</p>
Stephanie Lewis	I do not feel safe going back to school. With the SDCOE saying no masks, there is no protection for students/staff. Teenagers are not following rules already - not social distancing and not wearing masks when seen around town. I am worried about the back and forth for students and teachers each time a case is positive. With 38 - 42 students per class, the student safety, their family safety, and staff safety is at risk. Both myself and my daughter are high risk. Teenagers are not following rules already - not social distancing and not wearing masks when seen around town. DL will be different from the spring and that needs to be publicized for families so that they feel assured we have their kids' best interest at heart. Let's show the state of California how amazing our teachers are and how resilient our kids are.
Cameron Martin	<p>I understand that there is no option to make everyone happy. That being said, there is an option that will keep the most people safe. For this reason, we must move to online learning until it is safe to do otherwise.</p> <p>As educators we want almost nothing more than to see our students again. They are the reason most of us got into this field. Our one superceding need though is to keep our families and loved ones safe. Our students may be at a minimal risk to contract the disease, but the science (and the case of Israel) tell us that this spreading can be lethal to our teachers and the loved ones of our students. Please remember that a 1% mortality rate would still mean dozens dead within our community alone. 1 preventable loss is too many.</p> <p>Let us spend this time figuring out how to take care of students social and mental health via distance learning, as opposed to spending this time debating whether our jobs should be worth our loved ones' lives. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
Anonymous	Considering that many indoor places of business are currently limiting numbers of people inside, requiring masks and/or closing altogether, it feels dangerous and unwarranted to resume the 20-21 school year in person. It is probably reasonable to say that the great majority of teachers, students and families want to return to normal conditions, but wishing does not make it so. Until Covid-19 cases, deaths and hospitalizations are consistently declining and a better system of testing and contact tracing is in place, it is too dangerous to open schools in person. Many classes contain 35-40 students. Passing periods are short; bathrooms are crowded; cleaning supplies and personnel are in short supply. If a decision is made to do Distance Learning, teachers need the time to prepare. So do students and families. Without rushing into a hasty decision, the sooner a decision is made, the better for all. Distance Learning is the safest option at this time.
Anonymous	Please do not open in-person learning or a hybrid model. The resources are not there for either plan. We must prioritize safety of students, teacher and other staff. We can wait another period until 2021. The resources and funds must place towards quality remote learning.

Name	Public Comment
Anonymous	<p>Good afternoon. I wanted to voice quickly concerns I have regarding any plans for our return to school Fall 20/21. As a district, we need to have a viable distance-only option ready, with full support, that makes sense for each unique school site regardless of how school begins. We may, at any time, have to revert back to distance learning at a moment's notice; falling back into triage mode each time is an untenable option. To this end, the district will need to establish clear expectations for students regarding work load and attendance. Additionally, we need to ensure access and equity in the realm of internet access and technology to support the students and educators. Chrome books work for a majority of coursework, but our CTE and specialty programs require fully functioning computers and peripherals, as well as software licenses, that are expensive but are a must in order to meet the needs of students in these classes. If we are in a physical space, the vast majority of these specialty classes utilize shared equipment with an average class size of 36 which would need to be addressed. Any return to physical school must adhere to CDC guidelines. In addition, our district will have to be flexible in allowing educators to opt to teach remotely if their children are not able to attend physical school, if loved ones require care, or if those faculty or staff are in a high risk population. These are only a few of the concerns that crop up at a cursory glance of most school plans hitting the news. Please consider this when making your decisions.</p>
Katherine Kousser	<p>When the Board meets with the San Dieguito Faculty Association / California School Employees Association in closed session on July 16th, I hope the Board will consider the important role that trust plays in the success of any school district, especially with its teacher and staff. It is in the best interest of students that their teachers and the staff can be confident and feel secure in their return to campus, especially because some students will be nervous themselves about the return. As a parent of two students at two different schools in the district, I am concerned about how the District plans to physically reopen our schools this August, especially with regard to the health protections to be provided for teachers and staff, not just the students. Our schools cannot open and stay open without healthy teachers and staff. I want to trust that the Board is prioritizing the health of our teachers, staff, students and their families in making plans for reopening. Adopting basic protective measures – like the mandatory use of masks indoors and the use of physical distancing – and enforcing their practice – are essential at a minimum. Also, I encourage the Board to directly address the specific health concerns of our teachers and staff by listening carefully to what they require – collectively and individually – to be able to return to the classroom and campus. A one size fits all approach may not work. The District may have to be flexible in how to reopen specific courses or subjects according to the degree of health concerns vary among teachers and staff; for example, some may want to hold class outside while others may want to teach remotely until spring. The Board should consider ways to honor these requests while still providing in-person education. Teachers and staff need to be able to trust that the Board and the District Administration prioritizes their health and safety; this is the first step to building trust with students and their families. If the District Administration cannot satisfactorily address the health concerns of our teachers and staff, as a parent, how can our families and the students have confidence that our schools are safe to reopen to in-person education and are likely to stay open? Requiring the use of masks and physical distancing is only a first step. Addressing the concerns of teachers and staff is next toward putting a comprehensive plan together for reopening.</p>
Adam Bishop	<p>My name is Adam Bishop and I am a veteran teacher with 20 years of classroom experience, currently teaching at San Dieguito Academy. I am writing to implore the Board to follow the lead of LAUSD and SDUSD and vote to begin the 2020-21 school year via distance learning.</p> <p>I teach 11th and 12th grade English, my students are young adults, and my class average is 40. If we return to school, I will be working in close proximity to 120+ young adults for a roughly 4-5 hours per day. No other profession that I am aware of is currently working under such conditions. Simply put, there is no such thing as a "safe" reopening of a school during a global pandemic, with infections on the rise, and hospitals near or at capacity to treat patients. A mask and some hand sanitizer is not enough to make this fundamental reality any different. We cannot ask our community to risk their lives (and livelihoods) to attempt to return to "normal" when we are obviously living through a pandemic of historic proportions. Nothing is normal now.</p> <p>School facilities being what they are, and school funding being what it is, there is no way to modify the school day or physical structure to meet (or even approach) the CDC guidelines for safe gatherings. If eating a sandwich at a café is too dangerous to allow, how can 40+ adults in a single poorly ventilated room possibly be safe for anyone? As a teacher and parent, I find it unconscionable that we are actually considering putting our students and the adults who serve them directly in harm's way, when conditions have actually worsened since the last time we shut down. How much sickness and death is acceptable, just so that we can pretend to be living our "normal" lives? In addition to the risk of death, how many premature strokes and kidney failures can we risk? How much chronic heart and lung damage are we willing to risk among our staff and students to mollify a vocal minority of parents?</p> <p>No, distance learning is not ideal, but nothing about this pandemic is ideal. With enough time to prepare and collaborate, we can create a quality educational experience for our students. The Board and the SDUHSD just have to make the right call, and trust its staff to be the professionals that we are, and give us the time and space necessary to do what we do best.</p> <p>As a district, we have failed to answer even the most basic questions about reopening. We must not return to class this fall if we are to avoid the potential catastrophe that the school year will become once the pandemic inevitably hits the SDUHSD.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Good evening Board Members and Superintendent Haley,</p> <p>As you discuss with the Teachers' Union a safe plan for Fall Learning, I am writing to ask you to please consider offering students a CHOICE this fall for on campus live instruction as well as a robust distance learning option for those who cannot return to campus. Many districts are moving to this model in a safe, reasonable, fiscally reasonable manner. The model could have some of the following elements to ensure success and safety for both teachers and students:</p> <p>On campus instruction: Face mask use r Staggered Start and End. Two class years on campus at a time. Inside classrooms: looking at models being followed successfully in other countries, desks could be spaced 3' apart Teachers are kept safe: strong PPE, teach behind a plexiglass barrier, a taped-off area where students cannot approach them. Students have cleaning materials Consideration of teacher presenting remotely into the classroom (with monitor facing classroom for students to see the teacher, and then a proctor to monitor class behavior but does not have to be close to kids) Allow seniors to eat lunch in their car</p> <p>Distance learning · Synchronous and asynchronous classes for those students who cannot participate in live instruction. To provide structure to the learning day, and to help with group dynamics, questions/answers session, teacher engagement. ·</p> <p>Lack of transparency and early communication with clear plans. Whatever the District is planning, there MUST be early communication with parents so they can make alternative plans or any plans for the upcoming Fall Semester.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>

Name	Public Comment
Ellen di Cristina	I am a teacher for SDUHSD. I would love nothing more than to return to my classroom and my students for a normal year. But these times are anything but normal. The safety of our community should be our chief concern, and opening schools for in-person instruction will — at the very least — cause many to fall ill who wouldn't have otherwise. Please protect the lives of everyone impacted by your decision.
Anonymous	It is essential for the emotional, social and cognitive well-being of our adolescents that in-person classes are implemented to the fullest extent possible. All the data shows that the vast majority of children are not getting more than mild effects, if any, from COVID-19 and that they are most likely not transmitting the virus due to carrying a much smaller viral load than adults. As a former teacher, I understand the concern for teachers' health and fully support having teachers who are in a higher risk category stay home and implement the distance learning portion of the curriculum. Please give our families a choice in whether in-person or distance learning is right for our particular situation. Distance learning should still be an option, but for many students, in-person learning could literally be a lifesaver. Let's not underestimate the devastating social and emotional impact that distance learning can have on this age group.
Anonymous	I am writing to you in the capacity of a parent of a student in the district and as a 16 year teacher of SDUHSD. I have just found out about the emergency meeting. All of us want to return to school but I cannot stress to you enough the importance of giving serious consideration to distance learning to start the year. Granted, last spring was far from optimal BUT, we have a chance to plan accordingly. I am proud of the work my students did and of their just released AP scores last spring. I worked extremely hard last spring, even harder than I did when I owned my own business. I am STRONGLY opposed to the notion that SDUHSD has no model "off the table." A district in Utah is considering opening under normal procedures- they have a template "what to do if a student/staff member dies" template. Are you prepared to plan for that? Would any business take the risk of putting 40 (let's be honest about class sizes) people in a 900 square foot room WITHOUT masks? There will be those who say "children don't transmit COVID.." that's because they have been quarantined and we aren't dealing with children. My students are between 15-18 years old. Is the district REALLY considering the liability involved of an outbreak, of a student who infects a teacher/staff member, of assuming long term subs for quarantines of classes? Who will disinfect the classes between sessions? There are too many variables to consider that haven't been communicated. The only rational option is to begin via distance and hopefully people understand the guidance, wear masks and the outbreak gets under control. PLEASE consider the safety and well being of teachers and their families in addition to the students.
Cindy Gray	I would like to encourage the board and the administration as they work to re-open our schools. Since I am not clear what the labor negotiations is about, I'm assuming it is related to the re-opening of our campuses and the steps needed to make that happen. I am disappointed that these conversations are happening behind closed doors as we, the taxpayers, parents and other stakeholders want to know what the expectations of the union are along with what recommendations the administration is putting forth for discussion. We do support our teachers and want them to be protected, but we also want our students back in the classroom where they can fully engage in learning.
Anonymous	<p>With COVID outbreaks increasing and uncontrolled in our county and our zip code and most indoor services closing or facing restrictions, it is absolutely not the time to be re-opening the schools and exposing our children to hours of shared indoor airspace with others, which is the highest risk activity known for this virus. Please follow the health experts on this, and not wishful thinking. We all want the kids back in school but only once it is safe for students, teachers and staff. Absolutely not now! Other countries returned to school after controlling their outbreaks, not before. AAP's 7/10/2020 letter emphasizes that "schools in areas with high levels of COVID-19 community spread should not be compelled to reopen." AAP further recommends that if and when schools open, masks should be definitely be required. As LA Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner recently said, "Schools are different than Walgreens. ... It's not a 10-year-old in isolation. It's a 10-year-old with a 30-year-old teacher and a 50-year-old bus driver, who goes home to a 70-year-old grandmother. We have a high school with about 2,800 students and staff who have regular contact every day with another 100,000 people. ... Not so simple. Can't just tap our heels like Dorothy in 'The Wizard of Oz' and get right back to school. Got to make sure it's safe. And until the virus in our community is at a lesser level, below World Health Organization guidelines, it's just not safe." Following a letter from 239 scientists from 32 countries to the World Health Organization arguing that covid-19 can be transmitted through the air, a 7/14/20 MIT Technology Review article points out that "The more people you have coming in and out of an indoor space, the more likely it is that someone who is infected will show up. The longer those infected individuals spend in that space, the higher the concentration of virus in the air over time. This is particularly bad news for spaces where people congregate for hours on end, like restaurants, bars, offices, classrooms, and churches."</p> <p>LINKS TO CITED REFERENCES: https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2020/pediatricians-educators-and-superintendents-urge-a-safe-return-to-school-this-fall/ https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/doi/10.1093/cid/ciaa939/5867798 https://www.technologyreview.com/2020/06/30/1004625/is-it-safe-to-send-kids-back-to-school/ https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/07/14/covid-19-online-school-los-angeles</p>
ANNAMARIE BEZZERIDES	While a large district to the north of us (LA Unified) and one to the South (SD Unified) have each made a decision to deliver instruction fully remotely, we in the SDUHS District, do NOT have to follow suit. Given the significant negative impacts on not having students engage through in person learning with their teachers and classmates as well as to not participate in extra curricular activities iek the arts and sports, this district should find a safe path forward to provide for in person instruction and activities. Let us be a model and demonstrate it can happen. There are universities that are making the move to do so and to create strong communities of students in the process. We do not need to throw in the towel and do as these other districts are doing. We can leverage the power of community and be stronger for it. Create ambassadors out of our students and our teachers and we will reap a set of benefits of leadership and community while ensuring a far better learning and formation experience for our youth.