

Name	Written Comments
Item #2 - CLOSED SESSION	
Amy Caterina	Parents deserve a seat at the table! The District should provide the relevant information regarding the closed session prior to the meeting so parents can make informed comments. I am running for San Dieguito Union High District school board in Area 4 because I believe that parents should have a seat at the table and be educated and informed about the decisions that the District is making which impact their children. To make sure your voice is heard, contact me at www.amy4sduhd.com !
Wendy Gumb	I will address the Board with my public comment as is my right
Item #5 - 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	
Amy Caterina	Parents deserve a seat at the table! The District should provide the relevant information regarding the school year re-opening plans prior to the meeting so parents can make informed comments. I am running for San Dieguito Union High District school board in Area 4 because I believe that parents should have a seat at the table and be educated and informed about the decisions that the District is making which impact their children. To make sure your voice is heard, contact me at www.amy4sduhd.com !
Anonymous	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OBJECT to the purchase 13,000 chromebooks when overwhelming majority of students have their own device. Get a correct count of students in need and buy that number. 2. Use Covid Funds to get the school prepared for in person schooling - refitting classrooms, PPEs, wipes, gloves, bluetooth connection devices etc. 3. A substantial expense that have direct impact on the Distance Learning Plan must be open for comment by the community. SD Unified is holding a Town Hall mtg, our District must do the same. 4. Too many questions unanswered. We rely on the Board to get us the crucial information before approving the purchase.
Ruth Baurle	<p>The lack of transparency regarding our District's proposed distance learning plan has been unforgivable. During the four-hour board meeting, I heard NO mention of \$5.2M in Chromebooks and STILL have no idea what our distance learning platform will be, just a promise it will be better than last spring. Not a high bar. Do NOT waste our funding on Chromebooks. This expenditure will effectively eliminate our option to re-open, with insufficient funds to invest in our facilities to meet state requirements. Only 1000 students needed Chromebooks last spring. The rest of our kids have devices that already connect to Google. The key to high quality distance learning is not the hardware, but BUYING an existing software platform, not a piece-meal, cloud based offering the District will try to integrate and support for students. Which comprehensive packages did the District evaluate? Where is the business case for Haley's proposed expenditures? What are our alternatives? When is our CDE mandated, INTERACTIVE town hall meeting to discuss the how's, when's and why's of our SECRET plan? SDUHSD's parent/student community is educated, tech savvy and will fight for our kids. The social/emotional strain of distance learning is huge. Technology won't fix that. A safe school environment will. Spend Covid funds to get kids back to school, not home and disconnected. Invest in tutors, PPE gear, bathroom upgrades, tents, outdoor seating, sanitizer stations, monitoring/testing tools, video technology, teacher/substitute training webinars, more janitors, etc. There are CDC/CDE school readiness tools/checklists to help us be prepared. What the parents, students and Board deserve is a detailed checklist from District leadership, outlining our plan (purchases, campus upgrades, increased staff) to safely re-open, posted immediately on the website with weekly updates for accountability. Otherwise, kids will be FORCED to stay online. Please give students the quality distance learning education you promised and work diligently to fulfill your commitment to re-open campuses.</p>
Marianne Grosner	<p>Will these Chrome books be required by the start of school, August 25th? From many news sites, there is a worldwide shortage of chrome books and many school districts have them on back order. One district placed an order for 10,000 chrome books in June and expects their order in December. Normally, they said it takes one to two months to receive a large order but now many districts are having to wait up to six months to receive theirs.</p> <p>I wonder when San Dieguito expects to receive their chrome book order? If the order hasn't been placed yet, it sounds very unlikely you will receive it by the time school starts next week and actually seems unlikely you may receive it by the end of the year given the current shortages.</p> <p>If you purchase 13,300 chrome books for all your students this year, it may also set a precedence and become something that students/families expect from San Dieguito each and every year. Is the District prepared to keep spending millions purchasing new chrome books every 3 years after the warranty is up?</p> <p>Wouldn't it make sense to provide chrome books on an as needed basis? Many school districts are not buying chrome books for their entire student population. Also, many districts have a much higher rate of Unduplicated count students, low income/free lunch students, homeless and ESL students and these students certainly don't have the financial means to purchase chrome books on their own and will need to rely heavily on their school districts. I am just wondering if it is necessary for San Dieguito UHSD to purchase chrome books for every single student?</p> <p>Also, these COVID relief funds can be used for PPE, replacing or upgrading HVAC systems, installing water bottle filling stations to replace water fountains, plexiglass for protecting teachers/administrators, tents for outdoor learning spaces, etc. Again, I am just wondering if it's necessary to purchase chrome books for each and every student? Thank you.</p>
Michael Allman	<p>Regarding Agenda Item 5, the proposed reopening of schools for the 2020-21 academic year.</p> <p>It is important that parents, students, and the general public be provided with information on items being brought before this Board, and that they be allowed to comment on the substance of any proposals before action is taken.</p> <p>At today's meeting you are considering item 5(c) Distance Learning Model – Off-Site Instructional Agreement. As of 5pm on Monday August 17th, the deadline to request to submit public comment on a proposed action, the Board and Administration have not provided any details on the proposed Off-Site Instructional Agreement. It should go without saying that the public cannot provide meaningful comment on an agenda item when they have no idea what is being proposed.</p> <p>If sufficiently detailed materials cannot be submitted in advance of the public comment deadline, then the item should be deferred to a later meeting.</p> <p>Public transparency should be a top priority for our school district and this board. For these reasons, I ask that the Board not take action on item 5(c) until details of any proposed agreement can be made public at least 24 hours ahead of a Board meeting.</p> <p>In addition, in Item 5(d)(ii) the Board is considering the purchase of 13,300 Lenovo 500E Chromebook computers. I have many concerns about the process that determined that this is the optimal way to spend over \$5 million that we received as a one-time grant to mitigate the effects of COVID on our community. What other options were evaluated? Did we consider tutoring support or other in-home services? Where is the matrix of various options that were considered and backup as to why some options were ranked over others?</p> <p>Purchasing this many laptop computers, in a district where more than 95% of families already have computers and tablets, is taking a sledgehammer approach to an issue that deserves a more nuanced approach. The Board should not approve this contract today.</p>

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Lee Ann Allman	<p>Regarding Agenda Item 5, the proposed reopening of schools for the 2020-21 academic year.</p> <p>It is important that parents, students, and the general public be provided with information on items being brought before this Board, and that they be allowed to comment on the substance of any proposals before action is taken.</p> <p>At today's meeting you are considering item 5(c) Distance Learning Model – Off-Site Instructional Agreement. As of 5pm on Monday August 17th, the deadline to request to submit public comment on a proposed action, the Board and Administration have not provided any details on the proposed Off-Site Instructional Agreement. It should go without saying that the public cannot provide meaningful comment on an agenda item when they have no idea what is being proposed.</p> <p>If sufficiently detailed materials cannot be submitted in advance of the public comment deadline, then the item should be deferred to a later meeting.</p> <p>Public transparency should be a top priority for our school district and this board. For these reasons, I ask that the Board not take action on item 5(c) until details of any proposed agreement can be made public at least 24 hours ahead of a Board meeting.</p> <p>In addition, in Item 5(d)(ii) the Board is considering the purchase of 13,300 Lenovo 500E Chromebook computers. I have many concerns about the process that determined that this is the optimal way to spend over \$5 million that we received as a one-time grant to mitigate the effects of COVID on our community. What other options were evaluated? Did we consider tutoring support or other in-home services? Where is the matrix of various options that were considered and backup as to why some options were ranked over others?</p> <p>Purchasing this many laptop computers, in a district where more than 95% of families already have computers and tablets, is taking a sledgehammer approach to an issue that deserves a more nuanced approach. The Board should not approve this contract today.</p>
Cynthia Gray	<p>As we anticipate our county being removed from the state's watchlist tomorrow, many students and families are looking forward to being able to return to on-campus learning. I have been checking the website for updates on our plan and have been disappointed that there is nothing available. I'd like to know what resources we are receiving from the state & federal government and how much we anticipate spending to safely re-open our campuses.</p> <p>The hardware purchase of \$5.2M concerns me. Are we going to have the remaining resources we need to comply with the health guidelines for in-person learning? My student is already feeling disconnected from the school and friends. I am concerned that the damage we are doing to students is worse than the potential harm from the coronavirus. We are creating an environment that promotes depression and isolation. School is essential.</p> <p>Before you approve the proposed technology purchase, I'd like to urge the board to ensure our district will have adequate resources to make all necessary purchases for PPE, campus enhancements & upgrades, health assessment equipment and all safety materials that students and staff will need (hand sanitizer stations, classroom cleaning supplies, masks/face shields, etc.). I do not want to find ourselves in a position that we can't re-open our campuses due to a lack of resources. Additionally, what alternatives were considered for those funds? Did we look at software platforms that our students could use their own device from home with? I've heard that one issue with chromebooks is a lack of an ability to print. So, kids have to email their documents to their personal devices in order to print. The majority of our students already have a laptop. If there is a benefit to everyone having a chromebook, please explain that to us so we can be on board with such a large investment. I am not trying to criticize the amazing efforts and concern that has been given. I am only asking for there to be more transparency and communication as I still have no idea what to expect as we return to school.</p>
Seema Burke	<p>I have the following questions and ask with openness and not to put anyone on the defensive. Please share why 15,000 Chromebooks at a cost of \$5.2M are being purchased? My understanding is only 1,000 Chromebooks were handed out in the spring during distance learning. Was any district wide survey done to assess if students like their current devices or would prefer a Chromebook? I believe this would be helpful information prior to a vote to approve the purchase. If there is no need for Chromebooks, aren't there many better uses for the funds? I have heard the District is considering developing their own virtual learning platform and that it can only operate on a Chromebook. First: Why would the District consider developing their own platform for a 1 year problem, when there are cost effective best in class third party platforms available and being used by other San Diego County districts such as Poway? Are there any other San Diego County Districts not using 3rd party solutions? Did you know that a Canvas virtual learning platform for 20,000 unique users would be about \$175K or less? Additional apps for assessment such as Socrative, or apps such as Nearpod to engage students with synchronous and asynchronous options, plus training and support for one year on all of these and Canvas are unlikely to exceed even \$1M. So for best in class, and full training and support, the District could spend 1/5 of the cost for what appears to be Chromebooks that are not needed. And why would this be done for a one-year solution? Has anyone in the District worked in a company that develops software and understands the updates, patches, troubleshooting, etc. needed at a cost of man hours and distraction from other issues? The District should not be designing its own virtual learning platform. There are too many issues that could arise and jeopardize having a robust virtual learning experience. The SD County Board of Education, the UC system, Ivy League colleges as well as districts in San Diego County are using 3rd party solutions, such as Canvas.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Most districts in the state have solid reopening plans published on their website which consists of several different options of learning such as hybrid, distance or traditional classroom settings. It is concerning to the families of SDUHSD that the only proposal is distance learning. The families of SDUHSD need to have more confidence that the District has a well thought out plan that looks at protective measures for staff, administration and students. For example, consideration of outside instruction, and staggered hours for freshman/sophomores and juniors/seniors on different schedules. There has been no creativity or real problem-solving with this current crisis that we're in. The only response that we hear from the district is that "these are unprecedented times." While this is true, it is time to come up with common sense solutions to reopen the school in a traditional manner. Please publish a plan to look at the hybrid model and the traditional model. What will each one look like? Finally, please use the COVID funds for equipment and PPE to reopen the schools such as hand washing/hand sanitizing stations, thermometers, face shields, plexiglass desks for the teachers, air filters for the classrooms, etc. The majority of the students have computers. Please use the funds for a more practical use. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Why are we wasting money on chromebooks when we can use it for masks.</p>
Anonymous	<p>We do not need so many chromebooks especially when there are more pressing issues (the health and safety of staff, students, and families) at hand. We should use the money instead to implement safety measures such as PPE and facemasks so that students and teachers can focus on getting back to school in person for the best education possible while still taking all precautions to not spread COVID-19 further. Thank you.</p>
Sandy Ho	<p>Please do NOT approve the purchase of 13,000 chromebooks. Many many students have chromebooks already. Use the money to upgrade the school in anticipation of the school reopening. PPEs, masks, wipes, loudspeaker, table partitions. The District must conduct town hall meeting to consult the community about this purchase and how it fits into the overall Distance Learning Plan. Without the information, the Board should not approve. Thank you.</p>