

Name	Comments
Bryn Faris	<p>It is so disheartening to be a teacher right now. People are complaining about their tax dollars going to education, there are offensive comments about teachers all over social media, people rallying against the very people they want to leave their children with for over 7 hours a day, and others who are encouraging people to join groups who are actively plotting against the schools and teachers. Do people not understand that we cannot meet the state mandates to return safely? Regardless of whether or not I support the decisions being made, we cannot return to school safely. Yes, your student's social and emotional health matter to educators. In fact, it matters a lot. And yes, your student's AP scores also matter, although far less. I am a teacher. I think about my students' needs constantly. I also think about the most effective way to deliver instruction for my students given the circumstances. Consistency is everything. I want to go back to the classroom. I don't want to be in the middle. I want what's best for my students, for my own kids and for my immunosuppressed mom and dad. We ALL want to return to school! We all support a SAFE return to school! 200,000 people in the US alone have died from this global pandemic we're in, and I'd argue that number is drastically higher. So I do not want to be part of the spread of a virus that has claimed as many American lives as the country's last five wars combined. The death toll is roughly equivalent to that of Pearl Harbor, 83 times over, or the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, 67 times over. So forgive the educators, administrators and parents who are supporting the decision to continue with online schooling longer than that with which you're comfortable. This is a matter of life and death for many.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Dear Board Members and Mr. Haley,</p> <p>Please stop patting yourselves on the back. With the exception of two members (Muir and Mossy), you have done a terrible job handling this crisis. Watching you pat yourselves on the back while actively undermining our children in favor of your Union ties is embarrassing. The reality is that our schools are shut down over a respiratory virus that is slightly more dangerous than the flu - and only because there is no vaccine.</p> <p>Luckily Hergesheimer and Delassandro's time is up. This is their last chance to do the right thing before their memory is forever tarnished as partisan hacks that treasured their union ties over the kids they were elected to represent. And if we get control of the board - Mr. Haley should be fired for his pivoting from the role of his job!</p> <p>If I am able to take care of Covid patients in the hospital - your teachers are able to teach our children. If grocery stores are required to stay open and can service our communities - your teachers can get back to work for in person education. You should be embarrassed by your actions and the actions in the state of California from Newsome down.</p> <p>The Great Barrington Declaration is the reality of what we are facing. The WHO's announcement that lockdowns are wrong is finally some common sense.</p> <p>Vote Yes on item #4 and get back to work. Period. Your excuses are running thin.</p>
Katherine Stenger	<p>While no one finds the online learning situation ideal, and it is especially hard for many students and teachers, it seems the sudden and recent push to return to school in person is in haste. The questionnaire I answered today was incomplete, rushed, and poorly thought-out. I write to urge the board and superintendent to take more time to assess what needs to be in place to assure that any spread of Covid-19 will be prevented. Teachers are experiencing a heavy burden teaching from home and should be supported with child care and extra time for planning, but their health should absolutely not be jeopardized and we should not push a return to in person classes unless the teachers have been given the opportunity to express their concerns and needs and have them met. Please take more time before making any decision. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I urge you to put the mental and social health of our students as the highest priority. Consider at the very least to allow Seniors to attend in person, allow sports to resume practicing, and please allow "the trade" classes like auto and metal shop to resume immediately. Seniors who are counting on developing skills they will use in their careers are unable to complete that training in the distance learning model. Not all students are pursuing four year colleges. Those pursuing trades are being greatly affected. Distant learning is not an adequate alternative for everyone. Please put students first.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am a physician, I am well aware of COVID and the risks. I am also a mom of teenagers. I am well aware of the risks of isolation in teen years. Our teenagers need to be back on campus now.</p> <p>People have fears. That is what dictates much of life for many. Thankfully with COVID we know what to do. Wear a mask and use good hand hygiene. N95 masks work amazingly well. I don't use them when I see patients unless they are symptomatic or I am testing for COVID. However, if teachers feel that they need N95 masks, I think we should be supporting them and help them alleviate their fears. Have you invested in N95 masks for our teachers? Training on how to wear N95s, fit testing for N95 use, and instruction on appropriate hand hygiene is readily available. This could be very easily introduced into our schools.</p> <p>We need to educate those who are afraid and recognize that COVID is likely to be with us for the next 2-3 years. We need a long term plan. And that plan needs to be our students in school learning, socializing and actively participating in sports if they choose.</p> <p>The other very important aspect is widespread testing to start school and regular testing once we have resumed school.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Please allow our children the option for in-person learning starting at the beginning of second quarter. If we wait until the beginning of third quarter, our children will have been in distance learning for almost a full year. Think about that for a minute...a full year in distance learning. What is this doing to our children? This is causing enormous, undue harm to our them and is absolutely unacceptable. We as parents are basically begging you at this point to please put the well-being of our children first. The evidence is very clear. The CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics have both advocated for getting children back in school. Please consider the following information released by the CDC:</p> <p>"We are seeing the harms attributed to closed schools on the social, emotional, and behavioral health, economic well-being, and academic achievement of children, in both the short- and long-term, are well-known and significant.</p> <p>Aside from a child's home, no other setting has more influence on a child's health and well-being than their school. The in-person school environment does the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * provides educational instruction; * supports the development of social and emotional skills; * creates a safe environment for learning; * addresses nutritional needs; and * facilitates physical activity." <p>In addition, evidence is mounting that the reopening of schools is not causing a spike in coronavirus cases as was feared. A recent article in The Washington Post notes, "Thousands of students and teachers have become sick with the coronavirus since schools began opening last month, but public health experts have found little evidence that the virus is spreading inside buildings, and the rates of infection are far below what is found in the surrounding communities."</p> <p>In other words, attending in person school is as safe, or safer than keeping our students and teachers at home. Please do the right thing, and allow our students a choice to return to the classroom for in-person instruction before more irreparable harm is done. Our children are counting on you.</p>
Dominique Cano-Stocco	<p>(Note this was done by phone & I could not see the full agenda item titles. I had to guess. I am speaking on the possibility of reopening schools.). First, I appreciate school administrators & teachers for the incredible effort & thought put into how our kids can learn under these trying circumstances. As a parent, I am doing my best, trying to adapt like everyone else, including our high school freshman. As we consider opening further, I'd like to say safety is first, but maybe we take baby steps toward more integration of in-person opportunities. For example, my daughter struggles to do her acting class online & this was her prized elective. Some classes just don't translate well, no matter the Herculean effort teachers put into it.</p> <p>Maybe we start with these types of courses in small batches & see how that goes.</p> <p>Regardless, we stand with everyone just trying to get through this in a positive manner. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am writing once again to express concern that a very vocal group is leaving behind a very concerned group of families that are assuming that things are remaining status quo until January. Once again, my thoughts are with the teachers who are working so hard for our kids. How can we possibly keep the kids and teachers safe when distancing won't be mandated, and on open campuses like SDA, mask wearing will be virtually impossible to enforce. I was a teacher and a parent of two sda students. I live at the coast and witness on a daily basis the blatant disregard the kids have for safety measures. I am for a well thought out plan, but it truly seems like bully culture has once again taken over (like with the grading decision in the Spring). Please know many families are concerned and many of us know lots of people who have gotten Covid from there college kids. Please put health and safety first.</p>
Cynthia Edgerly	<p>We all want our children back in school. In order to be successful, however, thoughtful, well-informed, science-driven protocols need to be in place. Such protocols have not yet been established, and their establishment does not seem possible prior to a Quarter 2 reopening. For example, it is unclear what will happen when a student or teacher tests positive. Would the students in all of the classes of the infected individual need to stay home? Do they need a negative result before returning? How many students will be in each classroom? How many teachers will return to the classroom and how many will be forced into retirement, or into unpaid leaves of absence, without health insurance? What is the budget and timeline for hiring new teachers? Will you provide equitable quality instruction to students who have preexisting conditions, or students with family members with preexisting conditions, since your current proposed model makes it impossible for them to return to school?</p> <p>There are far too many questions to expect SDUHSD families to make informed decisions about which instructional model is best for them. Please do not rush to reopen when so many questions remain unanswered. I applaud the District for its excellent planning and implementation of the current distance learning program. Please don't jeopardize the progress we have made.</p>