

Name	Comment
Item 2 - CLOSED SESSION	
Adam Fischer	<p>For faculty negotiations, it's important that we maintain a spirit of collaboration and doing what is best for the everyone, especially the students. There have been some calls to require all teachers to teach from their classrooms, but this makes no sense and would end up ultimately hurting not only the teachers, but especially the students.</p> <p>First, there is no general benefit to having teachers teach from their classrooms now. If the purpose is to get things and teachers ready for the return of students in-person, that is a long ways in the future. The most recent case rate for San Diego being 60.6, around 9 times the purple tier threshold, and we are unlikely to exit the purple tier until April or later. If the purpose is to keep an eye on the very few teachers who are purportedly abusing the system, we should first make sure nobody is relying on unsubstantiated rumors and any issues should be properly investigated. And then the way to address that is through proper management, not a blanket order for all the teachers. If there is another purpose, that should be clearly laid out and the best course of action determined. Hopefully we can all agree that supposed "retaliation" is not the way any of us should operate.</p> <p>Second, teaching on campus may well work for many teachers, and that is great. However, it also may not work for other teachers at this point for a variety of reasons. Therefore, accommodations should be granted to the teachers, in writing, which Trustee Allman has supported. Teaching on campus, even from empty classrooms, carries risk due to shared facilities such as restrooms and otherwise. Many teachers have invested significant amounts of their own funds on superior equipment at home. With most schools closed, many teachers have unusual childcare challenges. If teachers are mandated back into the classroom, many will take leave and result in students being without their teachers (and given sub shortage likely without any teacher), which hurts everyone.</p> <p>Ensure teachers and students are set up for success by allowing flexibility.</p>
Duncan Brown	<p>The CDPH Framework is clear. It would be unlawful for this school board to attempt a reopening of our schools for in-class instruction for all students. As a community, we need to come together. Challenging this guidance - further imperiling public safety - will only further divide us.</p> <p>We are clearly at a crossroads. Do we continue down the same path of public disagreement, where no one wins and our students clearly loose? Or do we try to repair our differences collaboratively and amicably? There is much work to be done. The faculty association believes we cannot bypass this opportunity for collective unity and forward progress.</p> <p>We are asking you to allow district educators to come together to do what they do so well: offer a stable, well-thought out plan of how to move forward in a way that benefits our learning community. Under the current guidance, we will continue to provide quality instruction for our students. Under the current guidance we will continue to improve supports that are needed for all students to thrive. Value us as a true partner, and students will reap the rewards. This has always been our commitment.</p> <p>In return, we ask that our trustees refrain from anti-union rhetoric and policies that do not allow for true collaboration or sensible solutions. We ask this school board to communicate a clear, united, consistent message - that it intends to respect the CDPH Framework and work with the faculty association in creating a plan that is consistent with the current guidelines.</p>
Seth Levine	<p>I want to comment on the need to work with you teachers and ensure they have the protections in writing to allow them to safely serve out students and community. The amazing teachers need to know their health and safety are valued by the district and the board. Having board Trustees Allman and Muir state that teachers will be allowed to remote teach for health reasons and that childcare allowances will be made is great but so far that has only been verbally committed to with know written notice from the district HR clarifying and implementing this policy. It will go a long way to restoring trust with your faculty to solidify this policy.</p>

Name	Comment
Michele Macosky	<p>When speaking with SDFa labor negotiators, please recognize that our dedicated teachers are the lifeblood of our schools. They inspire & teach, run enriching programs, & are the foundation of our award-winning schools. That's why our students protested to NOT require teachers to return to campus. Teachers are your most valuable assets. Treat them respectfully, professionally, & keep your promises to them. Trustee Michael Allman publicly posted, "The District has plans to provide accommodations for teachers who have medical issues, or have family members at risk, or suffer from anxiety, or have child care issues. These teachers could teach from home as they do today, . . ." Stop the whiplash and put this in writing once and for all. Please direct HR to provide this benefit to teachers not as a bargaining chip but as a matter of basic safety & decency. As an employer, the district has a duty to keep its employees, including teachers, as safe as possible. According to CDC, Employees who report physically to an office or school are almost twice as likely to test positive for Covid: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6944a4.htm. Our teachers, the district's employees, have demonstrated that they effectively teach remotely. In Q3 the vast majority of students will also be remote every day. There's no reason why teachers need to be on campus to teach. Under current guidance, teachers should be encouraged to telework to the fullest extent possible. Many teachers invested their own money & resources into setting up amazing "studios" at home that cannot be replicated on campus. At a minimum, teachers deserve the same choice as students regarding whether to return in person. With a known shortage of qualified, subject-matter credentialed substitute teachers countywide, act to retain teachers, many who have with subject area expertise & extra-curricular campus involvement. If we lose them, academic instruction will be degraded for all students. Please give teachers the respect of providing Trustee Allman's posted accommodations in writing.</p>
SDUHSD Teacher	<p>Teachers still do not have IN WRITING any of the accommodations promised by Trustees on Facebook or in local media.</p> <p>Trustee Michael Allman has publicly said, "The District has plans to provide accommodations for teachers who have medical issues, or have family members at risk, or suffer from anxiety, or have child care issues. These teachers could teach from home as they do today, . . ." Board President Maureen Muir articulated similar plans to a local reporter. Yet teachers have not seen written communication from the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources outlining the details of the trustees' directive. Please follow through and communicate this directive with teachers in writing to facilitate planning and staffing as part of any future opening discussions.</p> <p>Allowing teachers to telework serves several purposes:</p> <p>Teachers have demonstrated that they can teach successfully from home.</p> <p>It follows federal and state recommendations that employees who can telework should do so as a way to reduce density in workplaces.</p> <p>In layering safety protocols, all efforts should be made to reduce density on campuses. Reduced density is an essential safety measure.</p> <p>Continuing to allow teleworking promotes teaching and learning continuity in the event of possible COVID exposures to faculty and staff needing to quarantine.</p> <p>The flexibility of telework allows our experienced, professional faculty to continue to teach our students. Any action that requires teachers to choose between their career or their health/a loved ones' health may result in a degradation of instruction, especially during this educational staffing shortage.</p>
Grace Ko	<p>There is no quality instruction without quality teachers and quality staff on our campuses. Successful districts and boards work with teachers and classified staff through their union representation in ways that honor the them as the professionals they are and support them in all that they do for all students. Strong and wise leadership understands the value of "working with" rather than "directing to," and treats all staff of its organization with respect. Most teachers are "givers" who just want to teach, and if they feel like the only way they can be heard is through protest and lawsuits, rather than ask "what's wrong with them," you should be asking "what did we do wrong?" Please start working WITH the teachers and classified staff organizations so that we can move forward more smoothly for the sake of all students and staff.</p>
Heather Dugdale	<p>I noticed a "Labor negotiations" with SDFa and CSEA line item, and am hoping that is not an attempt to force a premature teacher and classified staff return without appropriate collaboration with those entities. Just this evening - contrary to a spirit of transparency when our community was given a total of 5 hours to digest this very substantive agenda and comment - I received an email that contained very misleading information about the preparedness of our campuses and protective measures for our staff. While I understand the urgency to return, just today one of our campuses was closed for two weeks, thus cutting off our students of greatest need from their teachers; and just last week, one of our staff who had been on our campuses as late as December, died of Covid. While our students mental health is vitally important, I have found the District's silence on the serious and direct impact of this disease on our campuses and especially our staff, very troubling. You owe those staff the same duty of care that you owe the students, probably a greater duty as their employer. So, as you enter this closed session to potentially discuss our staff and some of you who might try to force a premature return, I ask that all of you put honesty, collaboration and compassion for your staff at the forefront of any discussion about our certificated and classified employees.</p>

Name	Comment
Sandi Adam	<p>For my children, teachers have been the saving grace throughout this pandemic -- providing reassurance, consistency and high quality education despite the circumstances. I was disappointed to learn that after multiple board members have commented publicly that remote working accommodations would be made for teachers who need them, teachers have still not received written confirmation of these accommodations.</p> <p>At a time when we are in desperate need of unity and collaboration, broken promises do little to bring us together. I chose to live in this community because of the quality of education -- education that is delivered by the experienced, award-winning faculty that you have on staff. The loss of teachers, midway through the year, in advance of AP exams, and at a time when teachers and substitutes are in short supply, would be devastating.</p> <p>Particularly in light of Oak Crest's announcement of their 14-day closure -- even before an expanded reopening -- please make accommodations in writing for teachers to ensure continuity and academic integrity. This is in the best interest of all students -- whether they are on campus or in distance learning -- and in the interest of preserving our district's reputation.</p> <p>Soon, infections will subside. Immunizations will be widely rolled out. Accommodating teachers is a simple, short-term measure that guarantees our long-term legacy as a leading school district.</p>
Madeleine Moon	<p>Hi, my name is Madeleine Moon and I am a junior at Torrey Pines High School. Earlier this year, TP lost one of its beloved AP teachers who resigned when it appeared in October she would be forced to return to unsafe classrooms. As I understand, her husband had medical reasons, she was an older teacher, and the health risks were very concerning. She was my AP teacher. It took over two weeks to find a replacement. The district lost a gem.</p> <p>As I understand, as of today, teachers still do not have IN WRITING any of the accommodations promised by Trustees.</p> <p>I do not want to lose another valuable teacher. It is imperative to continue academic excellence in spite of the pandemic. As a junior, and looking toward college applications next year, our performance on AP exams are a key component to our college portfolio. We cannot lose another teacher.</p> <p>Please allow some teachers to telework. This would ensure academic integrity and continuity for the students.</p>
Lily Bolig	<p>Teachers still do not have IN WRITING any of the accommodations promised by Trustees on Facebook or in local media. In fact, we've been told that any doctors notes previously accommodated will no longer be accepted. Both President Muir and Trustee Allman have stated that the District has plans to give accommodations for teachers who have medical issues, or have family members at risk, or suffer from anxiety or have child care issues. Where are those plans? Classified staff MUST also be accommodated. We have demonstrated that we can teach successfully from home. All efforts should be made to reduce density on campuses, as an essential safety measure.</p> <p>Board members, you have the power to bring healing to our district. Please. Please, encourage collaboration, transparency, and stability. Truly listen to the expert Associate Sup's, staff, and teachers.</p>
Carol Chang	<p>Our SDUHSD community is divided and struggling. But what I am sure we can all agree on is that we want academic excellence and integrity. The board members have a unique ability to take ideas from all its constituents, collaborate and bring unity. We already know your commitment to transparency.</p> <p>As of today, teachers still do not have IN WRITING any of the accommodations promised by Trustees. I urge you to please stick to your promise and make this happen.</p>
Molly Schneider	<p>As of today, teachers still do not have the "accommodations" IN WRITING promised by Trustees on social media and in local news reports. Please live up to your words and show both the staff and the public that there is truth and intention behind these statements. If the district board and leadership means to show flexibility and support for teachers, please use your voice to do so and put it in writing. In addition, please support district hiring practices directly (all information is available through the district and EdJoin) and keep the high standards that we are accustomed to. Demeaning professionalism by compromising standards for substitutes is not a good solution. Board members have the power to bring healing by acting transparently, collaboratively and responsibly. We all have a common goal. Let's move forward in a show of support for our faculty and any additional qualified new hires.</p>

Name	Comment
Anonymous	Please provide WRITTEN accommodations for teachers. Please provide WRITTEN and detailed information on air filters, date of installation, and locations. Please provide the actual NUMBER of staff that have been vaccinated. Please update your dashboard in a timely manner. Please, for once, acknowledge all that the teachers have done for our kids without being dismissive or following it with "but...". Please start to be transparent and honest.
Robyne Ruterbusch	As the parent of two children in the SDUHSD District, a senior and a 7th grader, we are well aware of the value of our incredible teachers. They provide an unparalleled education and truly care for the wellbeing of our children. We must therefore honor them and do everything possible to ensure that they are not subject to vague promises or a hostile work environment. As terms are negotiated with the SDFSA, please consider my following requests: 1) Please confirm that the SDUHSD district intends to fully comply with the latest CDPH safety guidance and will not engage in any behavior that undermines its intent, 2) Please provide a copy of the Siemens report or some other health certification that confirms to parents, students, and teachers that all classrooms and educational spaces at all sites meet the minimum ventilation and cleaning safety requirements. This will reassure us that classroom areas are truly safe for occupancy when the time comes to reopen the schools, 3) Please provide assurances, in writing, that teachers who have medical issues, family members at risk, those who suffer from anxiety, or those who have childcare issues will receive accommodations so that they may continue to teach from home. This will reassure the students and parents that we will not lose our beloved teachers who are the jewels of this district and the reason for its success, 4) Please do not try to force teachers to perform distance learning to empty classrooms before the schools reopen. This is unnecessary, and there is no need to micromanage them when they are able to perform their duties sufficiently from home. Happy teachers are the best teachers.
Katie Martinez	<p>We need our school board and superintendent to help mend the divisions in our community. Our community is divided over COVID protocols and beliefs, over the topic of school reopening, over how teachers should be and are being treated, and over inequalities caused by racial and socio-economic divides. Now is the time for our board and superintendent to listen to all sides, put their own personal agendas and beliefs aside and help our community.</p> <p>Start by listening, respecting, and rebuilding the trust with your school staff members. Ask the teachers what they want and what their needs are. Don't talk poorly about teachers behind their backs and threaten to bring us down and apart at our next negotiations meeting this spring. We are and have been fully invested in our students. We have and will continue to teach and support our students. But we need to feel safe in our schools. We need to feel listened to.</p> <p>We need our board and our superintendent TO TELL THE TRUTH about the lack of safety protocols and procedures that are in place. The new MERV filters have not been installed yet. They were just purchased. Staff members have NOT been tested since the start of January and there are no plans for future testing. There are NO plans for vaccinating our staff members. There are NO plans for distancing students during breaks and lunch. There are NO plans for cohorting students (14 students max to 2 adults across an entire week).</p> <p>Start by supporting the needs of our school staff and listening to the many voices that have been silenced since the start of the year! Help bring our community together and start by listening to all sides!</p>

Name	Comment
Jen Charat	<p>As you go into negotiations with SDFA, I hope you will remember 3 things: Teachers need to feel whole to do their best work Students' educations rely on teachers doing their best work The district's reputation affects students and teachers In public, trustees have made statements that teachers have choices about where to teach from. In private, teachers still have not seen these accommodations in writing. A trustee who has campaigned for a communications role on the board despite saying student board members provide near zero value, despite tactlessness in emails, and despite overtly excluding people who disagree with him, has said, "The District has plans to provide accommodations for teachers who have medical issues, or have family members at risk, or suffer from anxiety, or have child care issues..." When will these plans become written policy? Please remember in your negotiations that your plan for returning teachers to campuses is not safe. SDUHSD being called out publicly and privately for this. Does this district understand the incongruity of telling principals to send emails to families suggesting campuses are safe while on the same day announcing Oak Crest is closing for 14 days? This is not how you build trust, stability, or sustainability. Please remember in your negotiations that this district frequently boasts about its standing in the county, the state, and the nation. Teachers win awards. Students earn prestigious scholarships, internships, and admission to some of the most selective universities in the world. Do you think that happens when program administrators and college admissions officers learn that a school district is defying state law or is in protracted battles with the teachers who make this district great? The people who grant awards, programs, and admissions avoid controversy for obvious reasons. Please stop making a public spectacle of the district. Treat the teachers fairly. Stop saying one thing to the public, another thing to employees, and yet a third thing to your Facebook Group. Please collaborate to find a way forward.</p>
Matthew DAVIS	<p>It's time for the Board as a body to formalize what teacher choice means. I would ask Mr. ALLMAN and Ms. MUIR, who are the most outspoken members of the Board, to show us what real leadership looks like. Put in writing and get Board sign-off for assurances that you are happy to provide to any convenient microphone and on an assortment of social-media platforms. Show us that you can go beyond the easy talk about accommodations and teach-from-home options and walk the walk that makes it happen. The Board should not force the exceptional educators that make our schools the envy of the state, if not the nation, to make what literally may be life-or-death decisions that don't need to be made. Our teachers have demonstrated that distance learning can work (even as they are working harder and longer to make it happen and spending their own money in the process) and that great education can be delivered while complying with Federal and State directives to work remotely. The Board is gambling with the reputation of the District if it forces teachers to choose between their calling and their health or the health of their families. It's essentially asking teachers to avow that teaching is a job worth dying for. Really? If they make family-first decisions, which you've seen that may be understandably willing to make, then we're left with a bench of substitutes that you know is thin and a bench of qualified substitutes that you know is even thinner. If the Board chooses not to stand behind our educators, significant numbers will walk. Loss of these professionals is a significant step toward turning our campuses into daycare for young adults, which is the reality that parents and students in other districts bemoan while trying to steer their programs toward our District's levels of performance. You should strive for a legacy that is greater than this. Embrace responsibility. Give our educators confidence and certainty about the choices they deserve that will motivate them to keep teaching our students and not someone else's.</p>
Jennifer Daniel-Duckering	<p>First, I am thankful that the Board appears to be prepared to follow the revised State guidelines from the CDPH regarding re-opening of schools. We all want our schools to re-open and our kids back on campus. No one wants the kids back more than our fabulous teachers. Without our teachers and educational staff, our District is nothing but empty buildings. But the teachers deserve to be kept safe by this Board and the District and should not have to be forced to choose between their career and their/a family member's safety. So, please, as part of your negotiations with the Faculty Association, live up to the promises you have made regarding teleworking. During the December 28, 2020 special board meeting, Trustee Allman said: "The District has plans to provide accommodations for teachers who have medical issues, or have family members at risk, or suffer from anxiety, or have child care issues. These teachers could teach from home as they do today . . ." Board President Muir repeated similar promises to a local reporter. Yet, almost 4 weeks later, there has been NO written communication from the District (i.e., the Assoc. Super. Of HR) to our teachers confirming these policies. Without written and communicated policies, planning and staffing for a future re-opening will be hampered. Teachers have demonstrated they can teach successfully from home. Allowing teleworking for our teachers is consistent with federal, state, and local recommendations to work remotely whenever possible to reduce workplace density. Teleworking policies will permit continuity of instruction (particularly if we continue to see staff and student COVID cases on our campuses), and allow us to retain our experienced, professional faculty at a time of admitted educational staffing shortages. So I implore the Board – and notably Trustee Allman and President Muir – to "put your money where your mouths are." Give our teachers the peace of mind they deserve (and have waited too long for) and allow them to focus on what they prefer to focus on – teaching our kids.</p>

Name	Comment
Kimberly McSherry	<p>I am again asking the board to work in cooperation with district staff, site administration, teachers, health experts, and families to ensure our plan to bring our kids back on campus, once allowable, is as successful as it can be. The only way we can move forward past the circumstances we are currently in is by working together. Working together means asking all parties for help in developing a workable plan, not vilifying any part of our community, it means improving the civility of discourse, and most of all, being honest. Honest, as in not misrepresenting that our schools are ready to open, when the truth is essential equipment has just been recently ordered, maybe. Honest, by respecting the near unanimous agreement that teachers be given telework options, instead of just giving lip service to the idea, but putting nothing in writing. Honest is NOT using accommodations for health issues as a weapon, to be revoked in retaliation for staff asking for a safe working environment. Honest is NOT discounting the voices of students who aren't saying what you want, and it certainly isn't using students as propaganda pieces.</p> <p>Right now I have no trust in district leadership because of misrepresentation, abusive acts towards teachers, and downright sneaky and divisive behavior. Our way forward towards healing the rifts in our community and getting our schools open is by cooperation, and putting our students first. My students need their dedicated teachers, the ones that have expertise in AP Chemistry, or Engineering, or how to craft the best essay. My students need role models in the district office that speak the truth and don't mislead. And they need board members that value everyone. Please work together.</p>
Anonymous	<p>During your labor negotiations be sure to keep in mind that our "premier" district is slipping in its ratings. LCC specifically has dropped considerably. LCC's rank nationally in 2019 was 1640...but in 2020 it dropped to 3254! LCC's rank in CA in 2019 was 248 ...but in 2020 it dropped to 485! LCC's graduation rate was only 94% for Class of 2020! By comparison CCA's graduation rate was 100%, SDA's was 99%, TPHS's was 97%, which is actually a bit of a surprise for being so low as well. Even San Marcos High School was at 97% graduation rate while Mission Hills came in at 95%. AP test pass rates are low at LCC too (40%). Why are we paying one of the highest salaries in the county if we are comparable or even lower in performance to surrounding districts?</p>
Cynthia Rajsbaum	<p>Since you have time scheduled with counsel please consult with them and put in writing a policy of notifying the entire class if there is a positive or presumed positive Covid case in the class. As the news had reported, the federal government has indicated this does not violate HIPPA as long as the person is not identified, in spite of the fact that many school districts are using HIPPA as an excuse.</p> <p>The letter sent today by the high schools: The following mitigation measures have been deployed on our campus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mask Policy and Enforcement * Ventilation - HEPA Filtration and Upgraded Air Filters * Physical Spacing Measures * Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures * Testing (following State and local guidance as required) * Contact Tracing Protocols * Vaccination (staff have begun to be vaccinated) </p> <p>So many months into this why is our district incapable of communicating actual information to all stakeholders? How will you now go into closed negotiations with the teachers without telling them what you are actually doing? Is it in bad faith. Mask policy what is it? What masks are permitted which are not, what if non compliance? Filters is meaningless. What filter is in which classroom, how many air exchanges per hour is it doing? Is it counting on the door being open or a window? List specifics. Physical spacing, the minimum between everyone should be 6 feet so state this clearly. If this is not the case adjust it and/or specifically list any non compliant class. List who is being tested, why haven't you added students? The teacher testing sites are currently closed. For months all your stakeholders are asking you to communicate. Specific information should be provided. The new guidelines require community input. Please address concerns so we can all work together. Somebody should be able to codify specific information but if not please use your time with legal counsel to put specifics in writing, communicate them, and be open to community input. Finally the case dashboard needs to be kept current and updated on a daily basis so people can trust the numbers.</p>

Name	Comment
Kerily McEvoy	As you enter into yet another closed session with SDFA, please consider this. The students and community need a plan to expand our campuses to have in-person learning. The plan needs to have a target start date and needs to have our TEACHERS on campus with our students. Please ensure that their needs, demands, wants, desires are on the table. The plan needs a checklist - what it will take to get teachers back? If there is a checklist, we can have an action plan to get them back. This is what we need.
Concerned Parent	Our teachers have worked so hard to continue teaching our students during this challenging year. We parents are eternally grateful to them for continuing to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to providing our children with the best possible education and prioritize our childrens' learning and well-being. My child has learned so much this year, not only full-intensive subject matter, but about resilience. Please provide teachers whatever accommodations they need, and allow them to continue to teach from home until needed back on campus in Red Tier. The closure at Oak Crest this week clearly shows that there is risk on our campuses, and teachers should have the absolute right to continue to teach from home in purple tier. Thank you.
Julie Bronstein	<p>I am a parent with 2 students in the district and a 2020 graduate.</p> <p>Yesterday, Jan. 20th, we saw the Inauguration of President Joe Biden and VP Kamala Harris and celebrated the return of leaders who promote science informed policies and decisions. Our community is divided and struggling and the national call for unity applies to us too. The challenges of a pandemic are difficult for everyone to navigate. You, the trustees, have the power to bring healing by encouraging collaboration, transparency, and stability to a district that is now at a crossroads.</p> <p>Trustee Michael Allman has publicly said, "The District has plans to provide accommodations for teachers who have medical issues, or have family members at risk, or suffer from anxiety, or have child care issues. These teachers could teach from home as they do today, . . ." Board President Maureen Muir articulated similar plans to a local reporter. Yet teachers have not seen written communication from the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources outlining the details of the trustees' directive. Please follow through and communicate this directive with teachers in writing to facilitate planning and staffing as part of any future opening discussions.</p> <p>Allowing teachers to telework serves several purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teachers have demonstrated that they can teach successfully from home. It follows federal and state recommendations that employees who can telework should do so as a way to reduce density in workplaces and thereby risk of community transmission. 2. In layering safety protocols, all efforts should be made to reduce density on campuses. 3. Continuing to allow teleworking promotes teaching and learning continuity in the event of possible COVID exposures to faculty and staff needing to quarantine. 4. The flexibility of telework allows our experienced, professional faculty to continue to teach our students. Any action that requires teachers to choose between their career or their health/a loved ones' health may result in a degradation of instruction, especially during this educational staffing shortage.
<p>Item 4 - CONSIDERATION & 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</p>	

Name	Comment
Adam Fischer	<p>We need to collectively change our approach to opening schools and be WAY more collaborative. Parties on multiple sides have been adversarial since the beginning, and where has this gotten us? Nowhere. Plus, it has just damaged the relationship among the teachers, district, Board, and families. Is this REALLY the type of example we want to set for our students? Is a reputation of infighting, accusations, and intense battles one we want for our district? Plus, how has any of this helped the students? It just creates negative impressions of EVERYONE involved. Therefore, in order to truly help our students and prevent long-term, perhaps permanent damage to our district's standing as one of the best districts in the state, we need to change our approach to be more collaborative.</p> <p>What we SHOULD NOT do:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Impose mandates without compassion for everyone's situation 2) Throw around unfounded accusations 3) Defy county and state health orders 4) Ignore true experts and best practices 5) File lawsuits and engage in legal battles (which shouldn't even be applicable if the above are followed) <p>What we SHOULD do:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Work together collaboratively, with district administrators, teachers, and other educational experts making recommendations 2) Focus on how we can best get the students who would truly benefit from being in-person on campus in a safe way 3) Improve distance learning to address gaps and concerns and leverage best practices (I haven't heard ANY discussion of this amidst all the in-fighting and time spent on confrontation) 4) Plan for the future - for when we are in the Red Tier and beyond so that we are ready and all parties are on board with how we return to the classrooms. <p>Collectively, we all need to "grow up" from all the bickering and instead set a good example for the students whom we serve.</p>
Emiliano Phaneuf	<p>Had we known that our daughter's school would not open at all this academic year we would have made plans for her to attend another school. Please, can you tell us if Torrey Pines High School will be open in the Fall. If unsure, what are the contingencies? And are the contingencies subject to change?</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am a student at TPHS. DL is working okay for me, but after 10 months locked down in my room every morning I really need to be back on campus.</p>

Name	Comment
Divya Patel	<p>Isn't it interesting that the superintendent NEVER communicated the new guidance from the state to the community last week- yet 24 hours before the board meeting we get a vague email from our principal? Looks like a lot has changed in a week-or has it? More confusing information under the premise of "updates."</p> <p>Ventilation - HEPA Filtration and Upgraded Air Filters? Are these the 500 sq foot air filters that were put in some classrooms? We were told that school windows do not even open. Where is the information about the inspections? Why are you so vague?</p> <p>Physical Spacing Measures: You've already gone through all the classrooms since last Thursday and re-calculated all the square footages and new requirements 4-6 feet not the one metre as practical? Why are you so vague?</p> <p>Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures -Can you specify this? We still don't know anything about on site bathrooms and how they are monitored when students are back now. Why are you so vague?</p> <p>Testing (following State and local guidance as required) County testing sites for employees have been closed all month. Why are you so vague?</p> <p>Contact Tracing Protocols- What does this mean?-How many people do you have doing contact tracing at schools? Why did you spread false information about HIPAA last week? Why is the standard for notification of headlice apparently higher than a new version of a highly transmissible virus? Why are you so vague?</p> <p>Vaccination (staff have begun to be vaccinated)-Tier 1B has not started yet? By staff what percentage- 1%-20%? You really need to better- we are an intelligent demographic.</p> <p>With so much ambiguity and terrible communication, it is impossible to trust this formerly "world class district." If you can communicate clearly, how can we expect to you to take safety seriously.</p>
Seth Levine	<p>Everyone wants to have students back in schools safely. We have no trust within parents, teacher, staff, and the community that this will be done given the rushed and opaque nature of the the planning and communication around how the district intends to reopen safely. With the required delay now because of the CDPH guidance there is an opportunity for the district to allow site administrators and teachers along with district staff to work TOGETHER to prepare a clear and unified plan to present to the board that has endorsement from ALL stakeholders and would ensure that students and staff can return SAFELY as soon as possible. The board needs to stop communicating through blocked off methods like private Facebook pages and groups. The board needs to stop pushing falsehoods like the fact that teachers can already be vaccinated as unless they are over 65 this is not the case yet. The district and board need to be clear on what in person/on-campus learning will look like as it must be equitable between those distance learning and those on-campus. There have been clear slides prepared for the Dec. 15th board meeting that indicate the model is distance learning even on site. The district and board needs to stop hiding behind HIPAA (if you can send a lice notification you can send a covid notification) and have a CLEAR and honest communication and contact tracing plan that protects all populations (students, staff, faculty). DO BETTER!</p>

Name	Comment
Tracy Cereghino	<p>Regardless of your position on supporting reopening schools, we can all agree that we need transparency and timely, effective communication. Here are some things that I and many other parents would like to know: Are our schools ready to go/have we met all safety measures required by the state? If not what is left to do and when will they be ready? The CTA has said that teachers will not return to the classroom, even if vaccinated, if we are still in the purple tier. Is this true? And last but certainly not least - what does our local Teachers Union require to return to in person teaching? Please, please, please, answer these questions and put them in writing and post on the SDUHSD website so that parents can make informed decisions about whether or not to keep their children enrolled in a SDUHSD school. I recognize and appreciate that my daughter's teachers and administrators are working hard to provide a good experience but we all know that Distance Learning is a poor substitute for in person learning.</p> <p>I would also like to encourage parents and teachers opposed to reopening to read California's Safe Schools for All Reopening Plans. There is a ton of information on how schools can be safely reopened!</p> <p>https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Safe-Schools-for-All-Plan-Science.aspx</p> <p>https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Safe-Schools-for-All-Plan-Summary.aspx</p> <p>https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Safe-Schools-for-All-Plan-Rationale.aspx</p>
Brooke O'Neill	<p>During the course of this week various both an email to the community and Facebook posts have made claims in regards to testing, safety measures and accommodations most of which have yet to actually occur or be placed in writing. Although I hope that all of these items will soon be truth, advertising that they are all currently is false.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Accommodations to continue to teach from home for staff with medical conditions or childcare conflicts have yet to have anything placed in writing. Especially given the fact that the majority of the schools in the area are currently closed in following state guidelines, teachers with children have their own distance learners at home. -The district testing site at the Del Mar Fairgrounds is temporarily closed so all staff required to get tested this month have not been. -CA is currently still in phase 1 of distributing the vaccine. Teachers are in phase 2, so unless a teacher is 65 and older or also work in the medical field, then NO they are NOT getting vaccinated at this time. -Social distancing and classroom capacities have not been updated since Dec before the new guidelines were issued, although I realize this will take time to update.
Aimee Della Bitta	<p>Hello Board Members and Dr. Haley - Please do the right thing. Re-open your campuses to students for in-person learning with their teachers. If there teacher is not willing to go back, get a proctor or substitute to stand in while the teacher instructs students from home. There is no reason we can not do this immediately, if the safety precautions you have committed to numerous times are indeed in place on campus.</p> <p>The fact that you thought and told your community that your schools were "open" in September means that you believed they were. There must have been good reason behind that or it is complete negligence. I don't believe the later can be the case, so we should not be penalized now because a guideline came out after the fact stating an arbitrary definition of "open". The only reason a school should stay closed to students is if they are not meeting safety requirements. You have repeatedly told us you have these requirements in place. Open your schools to the students who want to learn in person.</p> <p>Students in this district are losing. They are falling behind. This is not their fault. They had faith that the leadership would protect them. You have all taken an oath to serve the students of this district. Stand up for them and open your campus.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I would like to call for Robert Haley's termination for cause or an immediate full disclosure of a complete and approved reopening plan so as soon as we are able to open in the red tier, all systems are a go. We also demand a survey immediately to determine how many students and teachers are ready to go back in person so appropriate accommodations are made. No more talking in circles or passing the buck. We demand massive action or termination of Haley. The union must step aside or make their demands clear. Stop putting students last.</p>

Name	Comment
Erika Daniels	The community knows that this Board and this district has no interest in doing what is right for children. As long as the SDFA is happy, the administrators in this district are happy. That is so wrong. There are no studies that indicate continued school closures are in the best interests of any student. Open the schools. Teaching is an in-person profession.
Anonymous	<p>SDUHSD calls itself an "award winning district". In an op ed letter from SDUHSD teachers we heard about the great achievements and honors of this districts. Those are rewards and results from the past. But it's also a responsibility for the future of our school district and its students. In the last 10 months this district did not live up to its reputation and the challenges of the time. You did not help our students navigate through a crisis, you gave up on them and made this crisis even worse.</p> <p>I don't doubt that you have been engaged. The result though is frustrating. Our students have been waiting so long and they are further away from a classroom than ever.</p> <p>Our students have learned a lesson: don't trust words. Announcements were cancelled, promises not kept. Dr Haley – you said loud and clear that "This district opens its schools the minute we are allowed to open". We all trusted your words and were disappointed over and over again. We were allowed to open September 1st and nothing happened, because you did not prepare for it.</p> <p>Our students have learned another lesson: Since March they have been hunkering down to flatten the curve in order to get back to school. This in itself is insane. Closing schools should be a last resort and it should be a community effort. But it's not. Their friends in private schools or younger siblings in other district are long back in school. Why are our students singled out to save the world? When it is so obvious it is not working. And why do you allow them to be isolated, frustrated and depressed and in front of their screens since March while those whom they are supposed to protect go on with their lives, go shopping and play pickleball? It's absurd and mostly: it is very unfair.</p> <p>Please be inspired by other school districts, other states, other countries.</p> <p>I expect you to stand up to the teachers' unions who certainly don't have the best interest of our students in mind and to be prepared to open our schools the day it is allowed.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
Russ J	Texas had their football championship already. LET THEM PLAY! OPEN THE SCHOOLS! Stop the shutdowns-they dont work anyway.

Name	Comment
Anonymous	<p>Last board meeting we heard that our district is divided, there is no unity. Everyone can accept there are different perspectives, worries and beliefs. The problem is that we have basically 2 groups, one that wants schools remain closed, one that wants schools open. And if you would give both groups a choice we would not be divided. We are divided because you are serving the unions and those who refuse to go back in-person. You are only serving one side.</p> <p>Holly McClurg from DMUSD and her team became my personal heroes last summer. They were visionary and courageous and worked together with all groups involved – teachers, parents, administration – to make it happen. They opened schools in September and it is safe and successful. High school is different, but this is no excuse for not giving our students not even some kind of hybrid model or 1-2 days back in school.</p> <p>Your job is to educate and protect our students. Right now you are causing irreparable harm. 10 month and counting – no end in sight!</p> <p>This district has made a big mistake when not opening our schools safely in September when it was allowed. Those who are punished the most are our students who want or NEED to be back in school.</p> <p>What do we want our children to learn from mistakes? The same that I ask from you: first acknowledge your mistake and then learn from it and do better next time.</p> <p>Dr. Haley I quote you “We open our schools the moment it is allowed”. You did not prepare for it.</p> <p>If you truly care for our students and if you truly want to open our schools as soon as it is allowed again, we expect you to be prepared this time. We want our students back in school the moment it is allowed. Let action follow words. We don’t need any more empty promises.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Everyone wants a safe return to school. I am glad to see the district plans to follow state guidance. Current CDPH guidance states that schools that are not already open cannot reopen until five days after the county has been out of the purple tier. The county was explicitly clear in the K-12 briefing about what secondary schools can and can’t do.</p> <p>Choosing to defy state guidance would have damaged district reputation.</p> <p>A trustee has openly suggested the district may operate in ways that will cause the state to force it to close. This goes against fiduciary responsibilities and puts the district in legal and financial jeopardy. This would damage stability, sustainability, and would be very costly. This would damage the district’s reputation, which is important for:</p> <p>Attracting the best teachers and staff to create and maintain programs, academic integrity, processes, etc.</p> <p>Putting our schools, students, programs, and teachers at the top of local, state, and national lists for consideration of awards and recognitions</p> <p>Recommending SDUHSD students for admissions to prestigious programs, internships, scholarships, and college admissions, which all depend on school and district reputation.</p>

Name	Comment
Anonymous	<p>I have listened and read almost all comments of previous meetings. Everyone can find studies and reports that support his or her agenda. The reality is: recently the reports that confirm that school closures do much more harm to our students than they benefit public health come strong and fierce. Some suggest now that school closures might have been the biggest blunder in modern American history.</p> <p>CA had the first and strictest lockdown, business, beaches and schools were closed. It did not work. CA is THE corona hotspot right now. It did not work because it is not a community effort. Look around: Nobody complies, nothing is enforced.</p> <p>School closures might have a benefit – as a last resort – if it is a community effort. But why are our students singled out to save the public health by staying home since March while their friends in private schools and siblings in other school districts go to school? I have asked this questions many times, I never got an answer.</p> <p>It is not just unfair, it does not make sense.</p> <p>The unions ongoing refusal to help us opening our schools safely, has nothing to do with science, health or safety. The unions are having their selfish and reckless agenda. I only hope that everyone who wants to keep our schools closed is hunkering down since March and staying home to show solidarity with our students and to share their burden.</p> <p>Keeping our schools closed so much longer than absolute necessary is a crime against childhood and adolescence. This district is already complicit in destroying dreams of athletic and academic scholarships, complicit in forcing our children in frustration, isolation and depression. What our children need in times of crisis is stability, friends and normalcy as much as possible.</p> <p>I urge you to do better. Our children deserve better.</p>
Anonymous	Please open our schools for in person learning as soon as we are allowed.
AT	<p>As a teacher, taxpayer, and fiscal conservative I'm livid to see that we are considering spending a fortune fighting unwinnable lawsuits. For what? A month or two of in-person instruction? And in the end it will only prove to be a reckless disregard for the health of the entire community that will absolutely result in a diminished district. Please stop this expensive quest for mediocrity.</p> <p>While I understand that many parents and students are justifiably frustrated (we are too), the state has laid down very clear legal guidelines. Breaking those will result in expensive legal battles that the district will lose. We are still in the purple tier (I don't think I'm teaching a class right now that doesn't have at least one student with COVID) and beyond that every study shows that high schools in an area with high transmission contribute to community spread and additional deaths. And that's when people actually follow CDC best practices/guidelines, which we are currently NOT doing (no testing, sub-par ventilation, ignoring spacing guidelines, no teachers vaccinated, etc.) To break the law to open now with 0% ICU capacity is beyond the pale.</p> <p>Already we are going to have to work hard to build back this previously top-ranked district. At my site a number of teachers who were at the top of their game and did much of the free additional labor of creating community have literally left the profession over this. It wasn't just the virus conditions that drove them out; it was the utter disdain for the profession held by a few of our board members and those on a message board one leads. This belief that a district like ours can compete with any warm body found by holding up a sign outside the DO is beyond offensive to top talent.</p> <p>Teaching is a challenging skill that takes a lifetime to master.</p> <p>Please stop this absurd nonsense of opening at any cost. Please consider long-term ramifications of indulging this reckless absurdity and put your time and money toward helping our kids become strong enough to meet this challenge.</p>

Name	Comment
Randy Gupta	I'm writing to express my extreme dissatisfaction with the communication in this school district. This seems to be a weekly occurrence. We just received an email that all classrooms are ready and staff has been vaccinated- this must be some kind of joke. Do you think we are fools? You got all this done in a short work week? A vaccination line is 3 plus hours long. How many have been vaccinated? We all want schools to open, the issue is we do not believe you because your meetings are full of nonsense, you do not care about your own public and you only want to hear from a small group of people that have no solutions. Mr. Allman has suggested opening in spite of regulations, is that the kind of person we want directing our district? He has also proposed opening a new school before the third quarter (next week). This man does not represent the district at large, has disparaged student input, constituents and routinely posts false information online. He is the last person you would want in charge of communication. Take a look at the presentation that was posted on Dec. 15th, it spells it all out. Why wasn't this presented? It would have saved a lot of issues and wasted time. Oak Crest has had to close because of too many infections- even though it isn't even "open." Trustees- Allman, Muir and Mossy, if you had opened on Jan. 4th, could you imagine the situation we would be in now? Now is the time to start figuring out all the real logistics to open: cohorts, supervision, staffing and following the guidance instead of trying to figure out every loophole out of the regulations. Another thing, where are the \$5M chromebooks? We bought a house in this area because we love San Diego, the district made it even better. Dr. Haley- it is your responsibility as well as the board to hold the district together and not promote its collapse. Protect all of our investments and do not let this district decay under foolish ideas, poor leadership and ridiculous communication. We deserve more.
SDUHSD Teacher	As you consider and make plans for reopening schools, please collaborate with teachers and the on-site administrators. We understand the day-to-day interactions we have with students and with each other and how potential safety measures may or may not be effective and may or may not hinder instruction. We are committed to maintaining the academic integrity of our district and want to serve our students to the best of our ability. Also, within your plans, please provide guidelines in writing regarding types of and details of accommodations for teachers qualifying for continued remote teaching. Board members have expressed support of options for teachers, but we have yet to receive clear information in writing. Thank you.
SDUHSD parent	Dear trustees, while I applaud your statement of wanting to be in compliance with CPHD guidelines and be able to welcome more students to your campuses once it is safe. I am alarmed by the email sent out to us parents and your decision to expand access at all to any student even under the cohorting model, defined as stable student groups of no more than 14 students, and SDUHSD may already not be in compliance. The letter is misleading as most staff, like the rest of us, hasn't had access to vaccination, AND even surveillance testing of staff is currently suspended until further notice by SDUHSD, again NOT being in compliance. Then on the same day that message was sent, we find out OCMS had been shut down for COVID for the next 2 weeks. This does NOT inspire trust in your leadership. You are endangering our children and community while misleading us with your letters. It is simple keep everyone safe, follow the law and stop misleading us, SDUHSD is NOT in compliance with the guidelines to welcome more cohorts or general student body.
Anonymous	I fully support getting the kids back into the classroom (WITH TEACHERS) ASAP. They are being immeasurably hurt by this extended time of distance learning. Enough excuses. This can be done and it can be done safely.
Christina Warmerdam	Hello, I have two teenagers who have struggled emotionally from isolation and loss of hope. DL doesn't work for them. The parents in the SDUHSD district deserve transparency. We want to know the exact terms required by the teachers unions in order to return to campus full time.
Anonymous	I would just ask that we open the schools ASAP. I have freshman at LCC that is not doing well. When I filled out a School survey stating she has been performing poorly academically and emotionally. I received a call from an Assistant principal Leo Fletes at LCC, who looked at her grades and said "oh she's doing ok there". Yet my daughter is underperforming & says she doesnt care about school anymore and wants to DROPOUT ASAP. I also spoke to Lori Musel, who gave me some resources for me to 'just figure it out'. In order to get any type of counseling "here's a website". Or your kid needs to have an IEP. What my daughter needs most is, IN CLASSROOM LEARNING. I'll never forget the day I took her to an orthodontist appt. she said "I wish this whole pandemic would of never happened." I kindly reminded her of how her MS math class stood up and cheered when they received the news that school was closing. She replied "yes but I thought it would be 2 weeks, not 10 months" and started crying uncontrollably. Some kids may love DL, but I have to say every parent I speak with has said their child is not learning very much, lethargic, and just plain depressed. Their lack of hope and excitement for today and the future has been taken away by the establishment, namely the union, administration and even by the Board with the exception of Mr. Allman. He has been the one person consistent with his plea for SCHOOL CHOICE. WE are advancing education INEQUALITY, those that can attend live private school verse DL public school. I've lost many nights of sleep, my choices now are to find a job in another state or sell my house in order to provide a decent education for my daughter. I don't understand the calloused act of not opening the schools when we had a chance... now I have to listen to Mrs.Young deliberating over how she must be informed if a child with COVID was within 6 feet for 2 minutes & Mossy being uninvited to a classroom... so we cater to the adults that are supposed to be Advocating for the vulnerable. GIVE US A CHOICE for IN PERSON LEARNING.

Name	Comment
Michele Macosky	<p>Thank you following CDPH guidance that prevent schools like ours that are not open from reopening until five days after the county has been out of purple tier. Today, with our own Oak Crest Middle School closed per CDPH for 14 days, presumably for Covid but with no formal statement from the district, I ask for transparency & communication, not generic statements about being “safe” or “ready to open.” We have no ICU capacity & are in deep purple with a record number of Covid deaths today. Show us the site-specific safety plans, share the actual feedback from UCSD, Rady’s and the County regarding our plan. If it’s that good, make it publicly available. When following cohorting guidance remember cohorts are only intended for “targeted, specialized support,” not expanding general student population return, and students must stay in the same assigned cohort every day. Please collaborate & listen to administrators & teachers regarding a plan that ensures academic equity between different groups of students (in-person vs. remote-only) with regard to instruction, testing, teacher attention, synchronous time, ect.. Instead of surprising us at board meetings by submitting and voting on proposals that we’ve never seen before, let’s work together. Let’s hear the well-planned presentation by SDUHSD Educational Services by from the Dec board packet that was not discussed by the Board but was thoughtfully socialized through principal coffees, multiple communications and meetings. Stop making radical, unsustainable proposals to reopen out of nowhere. The sudden, fundamental policy shifts (like a 5-day return or suddenly calling all teacher back) are giving everyone whiplash. Instead, take time to thoughtfully work with administration employees & teachers, to digest comments and feedback from stakeholders, and create a thoughtful, sustainable plan that retains flexibility to respond to community conditions.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I urge the board to ACT on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Commit to a TRANSPARENT, COLLABORATIVE process: Everyone wants to return to school; please lead the collaboration of the superintendent, site administrators, teachers, and staff to prepare and present DETAILED plans, receive feedback from the board, and clear communication to implement the plans. 2) Acknowledge the FACTS: follow CDPH rules that say that schools cannot open until five days after the county has been out of the purple tier; use this time to make schools safer by following the advice of scientists from the UCSD Return to Learn. Follow CDPH cohorting rules. 3) Do NOT defy state guidance. A trustee has already suggested that the district fully open until the state forces it to close; this defies the district’s fiduciary responsibility and places it in legal and financial jeopardy. 4) Communication with parents, families, and staff must be ROUTINE and CLEAR to instill trust and assure the community that progress is being made. 5) Teachers should have the CHOICE to teach from home or school. The teachers do not have any accommodations promised to them IN WRITING.
Grace Ko	<p>Trustees, please adopt a process that sets us up for success. As noted in your resolution, following the guidelines and preparing for what comes next is essential. What will be successful and sustainable? What will best meet the needs of all our students, while maintaining instructional quality and providing true educational equity?</p> <p>Our educational leadership, at the district and site levels, are best poised to answer these questions; we need their minds on setting up a detailed plan, with clear milestones and steps, so that everyone knows what to expect and can prepare for implementation. Hearing that “there is a plan” isn’t enough. We’ve heard many times, the “devil is in the details”--while the details and minutiae are not for a school board to engage in, they need to acknowledge that those details DO need to be addressed by the sites; therefore, the voices from the sites are essential to creating workable plans. A successful plan for return will take collaboration, and collaboration takes time--which you now have to give--and with a unified approach, the district, site leadership, and teacher leadership can put together a plan that successfully addresses the needs of students and other stakeholders, and ensure that the plan will be successfully implemented. And please, do not give haphazard directives that take up admin time and resources while we are purple tier that will hamper success as we move forward.</p> <p>Trustees, please provide direction for collaboration that creates a plan that actually has buy in from the stakeholders, then the district and sites can determine what needs to happen with cohorts, safety measures, purchases, etc. Stop the chaos. If we emerge from the purple tier without teacher buy in and without a plan that effectively services students in different locations while maintaining instructional excellence and educational equity, and instead continue in chaos, rumor-driven communication, and reckless pivoting that could be avoided with a collaborative process and detailed plan, you board members will have no one to blame but yourselves.</p>

Name	Comment
Lily Bolig	Everyone wants to return to school -- safely! For that to happen, we must work together collaboratively: the Superintendent, site administrators, teachers, and classified staff. Admin, teachers, and classified site staff must drive any plan. An email from the DO went out yesterday saying that staff had begun being vaccinated and this is just plainly misleading. A vast majority have not begun the vaccination process. We must adhere to all CDPH guidelines; opening when we are not legally able to (as recently advocated by Trustee Allman in his private Facebook group) is absolutely absurd. Having sties close (as OCMS has had to) and then reopen is disruptive. We have lost trust in our district. Now is the time for Dr. Haley to step up and lead. We need transparent communication; no one trustee should be in charge of communication, especially not one who doesn't value our students.
Bryn Faris	<p>What more can we say? WE HAVE SAID IT ALL! There is nothing more for us to say. What more do you need to hear from us? We are tired, but we won't stop. We will never stop! Teachers know how to turn it up when we're being dragged down.</p> <p>Sadly, Oak Crest just had to shut down for two weeks bc of Covid. It's here! It's in our district! It's in our neighborhoods. How many of our schools do you want to open and then get shut down? How many of our families do you want to get sick? Does it have to be YOUR family? Your child? Your partner? Your mom? What will it take?! The disruption to our children's education will be damaging. You want to talk about mental health? Let's talk about inconsistency in children's care. CHILDREN NEED CONSISTENCY! These special and emergency board meetings are giving them (and us) NO CONSISTENCY AT ALL. The reason for all of these meetings is because you're trying to work around what the science is telling us, and what the state recommends - that it's not safe to go back to school and will result in outbreaks, like we're seeing now at Oak Crest because it's inevitable and will happen at all of our schools eventually. Everybody is saying it's going to get worse before it gets better. Trust the professionals in science and medicine and education, the way you want us to trust you as our leaders. Nobody is going to win here. 400,000 people have died from Covid. Our brothers and sisters and children and friends are dying. Bodies are being stored in giant portable freezers. There is not enough space to store the lives lost to Covid. What more do you need to see? What more do you need to hear? Do your part to protect us.</p>
NM	<p>I don't have kids. Taxpayer in the district. Horrified I have to watch these meetings now because our hospitals are literally using tents to treat patients like some third-world country and y'all are considering breaking the law and opening super-spreader events every day so your precious darlings can flirt and gossip in person while people literally die because no one is willing to teach the kids how to deal with life being hard sometimes. I looked it up. Teen suicides are down in San Diego. Apparently your kids aren't as weak as you think they are. Let them learn how to work online like the rest of us busting our tails who can afford to pay property taxes to educate them are doing. Teach them to be stronger through adversity, don't just move all the obstacles out of the way for them. I will actually vote for the school board next round and get all my friends to do the same now and I'm going to look to see who throws away my (and everyone I know's) hard-earned tax dollars on stupid avoidable lawsuits to make kids into narcissistic snowflakes while people die in tents in our neighborhood.</p> <p>I can't believe I had to write this.</p>
Cari McClemons	Schools should be OPEN for education. The students should have been back in September but that was ignored and postponed for no reason. Gaps are widening between students in school and those that are not. We can mitigate risks, other schools have shown this. The education and future of student's is too important. The district, teacher's union and board member's are directly responsible for our student's failing mental and physical health, woefully inadequate education, and most importantly the continued shut down of our schools. It is ironic that we can have students on campus in classrooms doing DL with a proctor or sub but not a teacher doing any live teaching. While it is step to have the opportunity to be on campus they are still missing the education component. I hear people asking for patience. 10 months is patience. Time is running out for these students. You ask our kids to be flexible and adaptable with DL. Time for our board to be flexible and adaptable and find a way to education our students in a meaningful way. In your verbiage:; My students do NOT have an adequate learning environment and the board, superintendent, and administrations are not doing anything to help them. Find a way through all the guidelines and put our students first!
Eugene V. Debs	Oak Crest is closing for 14 days and you have a Trustee publicly advocating to defy the health order? Geesus dude.
Kerily McEvoy	Please put our students first. We need them back on campus for in-person learning. Please direct our schools to develop a plan that gets those who want to be on campus back ASAP in a safe and expositions manner. Our kids are suffering and keeping them at home is not stopping the spread of covid.
Anonymous	Our children have suffered through nearly one year of distance learning. They are deprived of human interaction and socializing which is crucial for their development. They are suffering mentally and physically and the consequences may be lifelong. The CDC and other reputable research institutions have made it clear that schools can be opened safely and not a moment too soon. Schools should be the last to close and the first to open. This school board needs to stand up for our children by following this guidance and refusing to cower to political pressure and unions which do not put children first.

Name	Comment
Cynthia Edgerly	<p>The communication coming out of the district—through proper, as well as improper channels—has been inconsistent and confusing. While the latest official word is that the district plans to follow state guidance, one of the SDUHSD trustees has openly suggested, through social media and likely other channels, that the district should flout state safety protocols in favor of a premature reopening. Could the district please confirm that it will adhere to CDPH's Guidance Related to Cohorts, which state that cohorts are limited to no more than 14 students, and 2 supervising adults. Could you also please confirm that you understand and acknowledge the state guidance that SDUHSD schools are not considered officially "open" and will not be able to "open" until San Diego County has been out of the purple tier for at least five consecutive days? I implore you, once again, to behave prudently, and in the interest of public health. Please do not endanger students, teachers, and our community, by reopening prematurely, or by sidestepping the proper safety protocols. I understand that Oak Crest Middle School has had to close for two weeks. Principals have communicated that "staff have begun to be vaccinated". Would you please elaborate? How many staff members have been vaccinated to date, and when will they complete the series? It is my understanding that, although teachers have been verbally told that they will receive accommodations to teach from home if needed, they have yet to receive written confirmation of this. Please provide them with the official position of the district, in writing, at your earliest convenience.</p> <p>Once again, I ask all of you to earn the public's respect and trust, by following county and state guidance, communicating clearly and properly, and behaving transparently. Now, more than ever, your constituents need you to work collaboratively, respectfully, and truthfully, so that we can build unity and trust within SDUHSD.</p>
Heather Dugdale	<p>While I would love to believe that our School Board intends to follow the law, I am suspect. While other districts are providing detailed, measured and truthful DISTRICT communications about their plans to delay a return to campus, our District is sending out vague, misleading communications about our campus readiness and staff protective measures; a communication through beloved and trusted principals, perhaps so that our community would be more likely to trust the communication. Because we trust our principals. However, the myriad misleading statements in that email pale in comparison to what I fear is an attempt in this resolution to open our schools under the guise of "expanding cohorts" and by extension force our teachers and larger numbers of classified staff to prematurely return to their campuses because they are "essential". While we are in the purple tier there is absolutely no reason for teachers or additional classified staff to be on our campuses as they have been doing an amazing job teaching our students and handling their duties from wherever they are. We desperately want to return to our campuses when in the red tier. Please do not jeopardize that by trying to play games with public health directives. Truth matters and lies will catch up to you. In this instance it can result in serious illness and/or death. Some of our children are struggling, and our staff has bent over backwards to support them with multiple layers of support, support which on one campus has now ceased for two weeks because of too many cases. And, last week, one of our campuses lost one of their own to this virus. At what point does the mental health of your staff become a consideration?! Without that dedicated and extraordinary staff, our kids do not have the award-winning schools to attend that such staff have worked tirelessly to create. Schools are not buildings, they are people. People who deserve honesty, respect, compassion and collaboration because after all, it is those people that will get us and our kids through this pandemic, NOT misinformation and lies.</p>
Matthew DAVIS	<p>It's time for the Board as a body to formalize what teacher choice means. I would ask Mr. ALLMAN and Ms. MUIR, who are the most outspoken members of the Board, to show us what real leadership looks like. Put in writing and get Board sign-off for assurances that you are happy to provide to any convenient microphone and on an assortment of social-media platforms. Show us that you can go beyond the easy talk about accommodations and teach-from-home options and walk the walk that makes it happen. The Board should not force the exceptional educators that make our schools the envy of the state, if not the nation, to make what literally may be life-or-death decisions that don't need to be made. Our teachers have demonstrated that distance learning can work (even as they are working harder and longer to make it happen and spending their own money in the process) and that great education can be delivered while complying with Federal and State directives to work remotely. The Board is gambling with the reputation of the District if it forces teachers to choose between their calling and their health or the health of their families. It's essentially asking teachers to avow that teaching is a job worth dying for. Really? If they make family-first decisions, which you've seen that may be understandably willing to make, then we're left with a bench of substitutes that you know is thin and a bench of qualified substitutes that you know is even thinner. If the Board chooses not to stand behind our educators, significant numbers will walk. Loss of these professionals is a significant step toward turning our campuses into daycare for young adults, which is the reality that parents and students in other districts bemoan while trying to steer their programs toward our District's levels of performance. You should strive for a legacy that is greater than this. Embrace responsibility. Give our educators confidence and certainty about the choices they deserve that will motivate them to keep teaching our students and not someone else's.</p>
Cristina Grosse	<p>Please get ready to open in person as soon as the tier change...stop disappointing the students ...follow science vaccines are coming please private schools are open ...they already missed so much</p>

Name	Comment
Lisa Fitzpatrick	<p>Why wasn't a message articulating the new regulations for schools sent out last week? Is this an attempt to try to bypass them as you've done in the past? During this week, we've seen a list of misinformation from this district including a commercial filmed at a school claiming "all scientists and experts agree." Should you be using our taxpayer funded facilities for tools in propaganda/future gubernatorial campaign? How cynical of board members to take part in a "protest" knowing full well what the real guidelines are and that what they are protesting isn't feasible for sports like football. I'm tired of being played by this district, and you should be as well. Today we get an email from the principal essentially saying we can't open- but we are continuing to open, yet you won't admit what the state has said. You cannot open until five days after the county is out of the purple tier. Can you ever say anything clearly? Are you afraid of the real truth? Stop the cynical politics. You have the principals send out a letter, yet the district itself doesn't communicate when the state laws changed. Why would you do that? Have you really vaccinated staff? Mr. Allman posts all kinds of ideas that aren't even feasible, legal or make sense yet he is attempting once again, to be the voice of the district. What is going on? He's making claims that are against what has been established by families (like ours) to do DL all of Q3. Stop the politics, stop wasting time. Please get to work and figure it out for stability of our kids and for a way to safely open the schools under the guidelines as quickly as it is allowed.</p>
Cindi Schildhouse	<p>Hello again. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments again. I would like to request that the School Board and District agree to Distance Learning through quarter 3 (Q3). Please allow our staff to focus their time and energy into supporting students, focusing preparation for AP testing & IB testing, producing a vaccination plan, planning for quarter 4, and planning for next year. Please take a step back and look at the bigger picture.</p> <p>Are we really going to defy the CDPH guidance and risk the wellness of our students and staff? That is beyond unacceptable, unprofessional, dangerous, and really shows that those who consider this an option have little regard for students and staff. Isn't the vision of the board to focus on the well-being of students? How is complete defiance of the CDPH guidance focusing on the well-being of students? Is this really a model of how we should be acting? Please work with staff, actually work with staff, and agree to Distance Learning through quarter 3 (Q3). Allow us to continue to offer the targeted support as intended and do not bend the definitions to expand the opening.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I believe it is well past time that the District must provide transparency in terms of what it will take to safely reopen. Studies from various medical and health professionals (including our own State) are crystal clear; we can and should reopen. It is incumbent on the District to clearly and transparently document the conditions under which our children will return back where they belong - safely in school.</p> <p>Also - please document the scientific evidence being used to remain closed. It certainly isn't coming from the CDC or the State.</p>
Jenny Richards	<p>Study after study has shown that in person school can be implemented safely and without community spread. "CDC recommends that K-12 schools be the last settings to close after all other mitigation measures have been employed and the first to reopen when they can do so safely," according to the report." The suffering that is being inflicted on our youth is selfish and unnecessary. The short and long term risks that teens are facing academically, socially, emotionally and mentally are extreme. This has been made clear time and time again. Please clearly outline what the Union needs to get our kids that need it back on campus. This has gone on too long. Much damage has been done. How can facts and science be so blatantly ignored? And how can other states have their students receiving an in person education. What is the real reason our kids are not in school almost a year later?</p>
Jennifer Daniel-Duckering	<p>When I started my comment, I was ready to applaud the Board and District for its decision to abide by the revised CDPH guidelines. I was ready to thank the Board and the District for what I hoped would be a new practice of transparent communications. To move forward, we MUST have honest and transparent leadership. Not leadership that sees a sole Trustee asking his supporters in an exclusive, censored Facebook group to support his move to put himself in charge of district communications. Not leadership that sees a Trustee, in that same, closed and censored group suggest the District re-open in defiance of State regulations and operate illegally until it forced to close by the State. Then, THIS AFTERNON, that leadership pushed out a cleverly crafted message – under the “guise” of our principals – that misleads our community about the safety of the re-opening plan and its implementation. The email said, i.e., the “following mitigation measures have been deployed on our campus: ... ventilation – HEPA Filtration and Upgraded Air Filters; ... vaccination (staff have begun to be vaccinated).” I have been monitoring the county vaccination process so I have serious doubts that any “staff” besides perhaps health techs have been vaccinated – unless of course they are over 75 or are also a healthcare worker. I have heard from teachers that while upgraded air filters have been ordered by the District, it is unclear that every filter, in every room, has been upgraded. Also, what “testing” is currently happening since the main testing facility for our teachers was the Fairgrounds, which the County has shut down? And the statement “we are able to continue with our current students and include more students in cohorts” is ONLY true ASSUMING the District actually follows the Cohorts rules. Given miscommunications to date, we need more than just “your word.” We need proof, data, and evidence. Our community is divided and struggling. This Board has the ability to bring us together and to provide transparency and stability before irreparable harm has been done.</p>

Name	Comment
Catherine Mintz	<p>Thank you to the board and the district for the work you have done to improve school safety for a future safe reopening. Many of us who are working on campus each day appreciate this concerted effort in the short run. Students and remaining district staff can look forward to a far safer plan than we had in August when we return to the red tier per CDPH guidelines. We thank you for choosing to abide by state guidance and, thus, allowing us to keep our district's esteemed reputation. An effort to reopen prior to returning to the red tier goes against fiduciary responsibilities and forces our district into legal and financial jeopardy. Ultimately it is the tax payers and the future students of this district who would pay for such a reckless decision. The community, your staff, and your students deserve your priority to safety. We are a few short weeks away from staff being permitted to receive the vaccination and, thus, making our way back to school! I sit in my classroom each and every day missing my students. I urge the board to continue to make the right decisions for the community, the staff, and for the students they serve. If we had returned on Jan. 4th, we would have done so in the middle of a county-wide surge. The number of positive student covid cases at this time is higher than we ever seen. You protected students and staff from this surge in cases. I urge you to continue to follow the CDPH guidance and continue to make plans for a step-by-step return to schools by following the expert advice of scientists from the UCSD Return to Learn. If there is ANYTHING you can do to get teachers and staff vaccinated, DO IT! Use your influences and your connections to bring vaccinations to us or take us to it!</p>
James Barnhill	<p>Let's stop negotiating with the union, get the kids back on campus five days per week and allow the teachers to teach wherever they want.</p>
Sandi Adam	<p>The CDPH guidance stating that our district cannot reopen until we are out of the purple tier presents you with an opportunity to make choices. You can choose to heal the painful divisions in our community -- which have gotten us no closer than we were last year to a detailed reopening plan -- by taking this time to create a transparent and collaborative process to get us there. You can choose to be a board that calls for the superintendent, site administrators, infectious disease experts and teachers to work together to prepare and present reopening plans that you review and approve. You can choose to hold the district accountable to presenting the whole truth, 100% of the time. You can choose to repair that broken trust between the district and families, teachers and students.</p> <p>Transparency is critical to regaining community trust. Make public a detailed reopening plan. Show us it has incorporated the input of important stakeholders, like principals and teachers. Demonstrate that actual infectious disease experts approve of your plan: Oak Crest Middle School's 14 day closing is proof that we need a more robust plan in order to stop the whiplash and have a sustainable reopening. Follow your board bylaws and assign someone to lead communications who exercises restraint, tact and is a trusted, neutral party who inspires public confidence. Err on the side of oversharing in advance information that is up for discussion in board meetings.</p> <p>Today, a young poet laureate shared wise words on a path forward for our nation: "We close the divide because we know, to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside." Show our students that we can be the adults that we're called to be, and that we can work together to safely reopen schools.</p>
Ann Cerny	<p>I have a comment about the issue of Substitute Teacher recruitment & rate. When, in a previous Board meeting, you all contemplated and raised the daily rate for substitute teachers, the prevailing issue was recruiting people to take the role of the teacher in the classroom, covering curriculum, grading, maybe even designing lessons and engaging in parent contact. In this case, the raise is very appropriate - particularly in this distance-learning time, it would be a very difficult job for a substitute to do in the case of a teacher needing to be out due to COVID illness or leave. However, now it seems that the bulk of substitute work is really that of a proctor (supervising and facilitating students doing on-line class led by their working teacher), it seems curious to me that person would be making a daily rate not much less than a salaried teacher. I wonder what strains that puts on the district's budget that could be used in other ways- is it fiscally responsible? I don't remember much of an actual financial impact evaluation happening, or even interest in one, as some on the board seemed to out-bid each other hoping that increased rate would fix the staffing concerns. Might it be more prudent to actually create a different level of daily hiring - maybe calling it a Proctor - with the old rate, but maintaining the elevated rate for those actually serving in the role of the credentialed teacher- actually delivering lessons to students? I must say, there are a lot of teachers shaking their heads, seeing this fact that these Proctor-sub's are making almost as much as we do as yet another sign of the lack of respect for professional teachers with years of subject-matter and pedagogical experience. I wonder as part of your regular report on Substitute recruitment, if you'd be interested in knowing what substitute expenditures have looked like in the last month or two, and using that information to more responsibly allocate district funds.</p>

Name	Comment
Anonymous	<p>It is clear that our local community is not doing well regarding COVID. Teachers are working hard with families for emotional support and academic support as cases increase and affect our school families and staff. Teachers are seeing increased situations where students and families are being affected by COVID at home. We also have community members that have lost jobs and have been moving. In some unfortunate cases, we have student households or families that have lost loved ones. If you look at the COVID 19 SDUHSD dashboard, cases are increasing (TPHS & Oak Crest and District). With the new trial of allowing students to learn on campus, there is no accountability that the students have COVID/RECOVERED or are RECOVERING. Are they testing and being honest? The family doesn't even have to tell our school if they tested positive. The dashboard is not 100% correct now because the number of students and staff on campus changes daily. With unexpected weather as well, what will happen on rainy/windy and cold days. There are rumors that teachers are being vaccinated. I am a teacher and I have yet to receive any guidance by our district. I stood in line for 1 and a half hours for a COVID test (mandated by our district) when cases were increasing after teaching a full day. I felt nervous the whole time waiting..only to find out the next day that our district cancelled our mandatory testing for the short time due to increasing cases. Let's stop the confusion....keep our beloved community safe for ALL and keep our district reputable by making smart decisions for EVERYONE.</p>
Robyne Ruterbusch	<p>In the spirit of the inaugural message of our new President, I want to stress that TRUTH and TRANSPARENCY is imperative for effective leadership and management of an award-winning school district like SDUHSD. I am a parent of a senior and 7th grader and have become increasingly troubled over the last few months with the vague communications coming from the Superintendent and divisive/untrue rhetoric from one of the new Trustees. Not only does this behavior by district leaders create confusion, it is subversive and undermines trust in the district and its reputation. I am emphatically asking the Superintendent and Board of Trustees to do better: 1) Allow the Associate Superintendent of Educational Services to present to parents, students, and teachers a clear explanation of the district reopening model as shown in the slides starting on pg. 58 of the 12/15/2020 Board Meeting Agenda, 2) Communicate the specific and most pertinent triggers for reopening as provided in the latest CDPH guidance. Please also confirm that the SDUHSD district intends to fully comply with this guidance and will not engage in any behavior that undermines its intent, 3) Please provide a copy of the Siemens report or some other health certification that confirms that all classrooms and educational spaces meet the minimum ventilation and cleaning safety requirements. This will reassure us that classroom areas are truly safe for occupancy, 4) Please provide a clear explanation, in writing, the official methods of communication to/with students and parents. An elected Trustee whose role is political in nature is NOT an appropriate district spokesperson. Please also hold accountable any unofficial websites or social media groups that put out false or misleading district information. This will minimize and hopefully prevent confusing and subversive messaging that undermines trust in the district, as well as avoid district embarrassment. Our kids are watching, so I expect that the Superintendent and Trustees will always operate with the highest level of integrity.</p>
Anonymous	<p>SDUHSD -- Thank you for your hard work! Please continue to work within the CDPH's guidance/framework for reopening -- please continue to take a cautious approach to re-opening. Do not jeopardize our students, our teachers or our schools' reputation by reopening prematurely just because people are tired of the pandemic. It's not over -- not even close! This evening our county reported a record-high number of COVID deaths; surely you know that Oak Crest Middle School just closed for 14 days! It is essential that our district takes a science-backed approach and works collaboratively with those who do the day-in and day-out work of our district -- teachers. Please provide teachers with the written support/agreements (for telework) they need to continue to do their jobs securely.</p> <p>Please communicate truthfully and clearly. The boilerplate emails sent this evening to parents from our schools were misleading and not helpful. We want to know that our school district is being smart and measured, not reactive. Please, trustees and administrators -- model the behavior we expect from our students and elect/implement a safe learning model until vaccines are widely available & the community spread is contained at a safe level. Thank you.</p>

Name	Comment
Lori Larocque	<p>SDUHSD board meeting comment</p> <p>Despite our community color-coded status, it is time to properly and safely reopen the schools while giving teachers and students a choice. People who talk about it not being safe now were saying the same thing in September when SD was in the red tier and our school district community had very low case rates. This is suspect to me wondering what the motives are behind the political curtain. In any event, Distance learning was never intended to be a long-term solution to a public health emergency. The detrimental and long-lasting effects, socially, emotionally, academically and physically far outweigh any risks that the students and their families would be willing to take to come back on campus. Schools are simply not vectors for community spread. Schools are safe to reopen and it's long overdue that we implement what has been proposed and delayed on multiple occasions. In other school districts around CA and the country, it is clear there is a greater adherence to protocols in schools because it is a controlled, safe and supervised environment. In my opinion and others who are likeminded, It is disgraceful that SDFA has been blockading these efforts . I'm certain that there are teachers in our district that absolutely want to return to the classroom but cannot speak out against the aggressive position the SDFA has taken. For those teachers - we stand with you and we know these are challenging times. Please understand that parents care about teachers and our plan is about creating options for everyone's well being, students included and at the forefront of our pleas. I would respectfully ask the board and superintendent to support a choice for students, and compassionate and flexible leave policies for teachers and staff.</p>
Carol Chang	<p>I am a parent of two children in the district. We know everyone wants a safe return to school. I ask you to please work with the teachers and SDUHSD site administrators to develop a plan that is safe and agreed on by everyone. They are most familiar with what is best for their site. This would ensure the academic integrity that we as a district have always maintained.</p> <p>My own personal observation has been that teachers are working harder than ever. They are not only spending their own money on equipment, but I also know email responses and office hours are more frequent than my children have ever experienced in their 5 years in the district.</p> <p>When moving forward with reopening plans, until the teachers and staff have had a chance to be fully vaccinated, please give the teachers CHOICE. We cannot afford to lose any more valuable teachers.</p> <p>SDUHSD Educational Services has already created a presentation for the Board of Trustees regular meeting on 12/15. The information in that presentation showed careful planning and decision making. Please consider these carefully constructed plans.</p> <p>I urge you to consider better safety, and choice for the teachers in writing.</p>

Name	Comment
SDUHSD Employee	<p>Dear Parents and Taxpayers- once again, you are being deceived. The email that was sent out to you yesterday is full of untrue statements. We've just about seen it all in this district, phony surveys, drawn-out meetings and lies during presentations. I am not a union follower, I am a parent and I expect the same for my own child as yours and I work for this district. We are sick and tired of the politics and dirty dealing and the division that this district leadership is encouraging through its lack of leadership and misleading communication. Here's what you need to know:</p> <p>No changes to physical spacing measures have occurred. The last change was in November. Keep in mind SDUHSD had one of the slimmest margins "3 feet" spacing of any school district. That is no longer allowed under state guidelines.</p> <p>No additional custodial staff have been hired to help with increased cleaning protocols. There are no additional staff to help monitor bathrooms as well. Who is really monitoring that capacity?</p> <p>Testing of staff has not happened at all in January. The county closed the facilities for school employees in late December- why? Because schools were supposed to be closed all January. SDUHSD has waived anyone needing a test in Jan. because of that issue. They didn't tell you that.</p> <p>The "dashboard" of SDUHSD information on COVID-19 is not updated regularly or updated irregularly in what appears to be attempts to manipulate data. Oak Crest has had to close for 14 days even though it has a small population of students.</p> <p>Vaccination?? Fewer than 5 staff members our school site have been vaccinated.</p> <p>This message was the same to all schools, which makes you wonder, who really wrote it?</p> <p>Now ask yourself this question, what is the motivation of all this deception? You deserve more, our students and children deserve more.</p>
Mark Janis	<p>Hi, What day, Exactly, will you open for Full-Time Five (5) day per school week In-Person on campus learning? Please respond by Day Month Date Year? (I.e Monday, February 1, 2021, ALL students MAY come on Campus for in-person in-classroom instruction if they so choose. Not by last name, Not by Day, Not Outside, but their actual classes. Full-Time and In-Person in their Classroom. You can have their current teachers teaching from Home, substitutes or proctors, at this point WE DO NOT CARE. Families need to make decisions here about their child's education, and distance learning is the barely the equivalent of an online diploma. If you're reading this message, do you have a degree from an online school?</p>
Madeleine Moon	<p>Hi, my name is Madeleine Moon, and I am a junior at Torrey Pines High School. When making the decision to re-open our schools this upcoming semester, I believe it is incredibly important for you, board members, to consider the fact that reopening our schools — given our present circumstances — would be EXTREMELY unlawful. According to current CDPH guidance, schools that are not already open are prohibited from opening unless they have been out of the purple tier for at least two weeks. As I recall, we have not been out of the purple tier for two weeks — let alone, out of the purple tier at all. I find it incredibly disappointing to know that you, board members, would be willing to defy state guidelines. What kind of an example does that set for us students?</p> <p>I strongly urge you, board members, to keep safety your number one priority, and keep our schools closed. I can't speak for everyone, but I would much rather prefer our district be recognized for its outstanding academics, as opposed to its unlawful behavior.</p>

Name	Comment
Katie Martinez	<p>I implore you to follow the CDPH guidelines to their MAX. The district stopped staff COVID testing at the start of January and has issued NO guidance for moving forward. The forced principals' email on Wednesday stated that staff are being vaccinating. There is NO process in place for this to happen and has been NO communication with staff about that. There are no signs or proof that our air filters have been upgraded. Students are walking around campus with their masks down and aren't distancing during their breaks/lunch. There are NO protocols in place for these breaks.</p> <p>Our small groups of students are not placed in cohorts according to the CDPH guidelines. These guidelines state that a max of 14 students to 2 teachers across an entire week creates a cohort. This is definitely NOT what is currently being done. We just saw on Wednesday how the lack of cohorting directly affected Oak Crest Middle School – SHUT DOWN FOR 2 WEEKS! And where was the communication to ALL district staff and ALL district families about this extremely important school closure?</p> <p>We need crystal clear and immediate communication! We cannot wait until word of mouth travels around the distance during this pandemic. Our families and staff deserve to be treated better! Every student and teacher in a classroom with a COVID positive person has a right to quarantine, or better yet, be forced to quarantine for possible exposure. That is the ONLY way we will stop the spread in our community!</p> <p>Mr. Allman wants to be in charge of communications for the district. This should NOT happen! Mr. Allman is controlling a private Facebook page which is notorious for teacher bashing & condoning unhealthy behaviors. Mr. Allman is even making threats to teachers' contracts. His actions & words should be closely monitored as he is becoming a bully & making some staff members feel extremely unsafe in the working environment.</p> <p>Teachers make up the heart and soul of many of the students' lives. Let us have choice. Let us have a say. Let us be heard and respected!</p>
Seema Burke	<p>The community wants a simple transparent method to understand the District's Safe Reopening Plan. I respectfully request that that the District and each Site Principal hold a town hall NEXT WEEK, for which factual, non-legal questions can be submitted via a Google Form, to go over the Safe Reopening Plan as it applies to the specific site. The presentation should include a campus map showing, at a minimum, ACH in each enclosed space, whether an enclosed space has a free-standing filtering device, opening windows in an enclosed space, traffic flow arrows, sanitizing stations, and drop off and pick-up sites. People could then clearly see some of the safety protocol as it applies to their site, particularly ventilation.</p> <p>Also, the District should consider joining efforts of other districts in pushing back on the arbitrary application of the new CDPH Guidance. Hinging the right to open in "purple tier" based on a new definition of "open" in a hindsight review of what they did during the "red" tier, is discriminatory: 1) continued expansion of campus populations of "red" tier "open" schools (while neighboring schools remain closed) widens the already significant academic competency gap, 2) The New CDPH Guidance heavily discriminates against lower income school districts that struggled to open in the "red" tier for a variety of reasons, but which have the funding and ability to meet ALL New CDPH Guidance now, and 3) changing guidelines halfway through the school year has a detrimental and inequitable effect on school districts following previously developed reopening plans. By permitting ANY schools to reopen in the "purple" tier, the government is confirming its belief that reopening can be done safely. The government cannot have it both ways: if the state government truly believes that any schools open in the purple tier pose a community health and safety risk, then ALL schools, public and private, should be closed for safety reasons. If not, then ANY school that can meet all safety protocol, MUST be allowed to open.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I have written so many times, but our voices fall on deaf ears. The doctors, scientists and MANY leaders have said that kids need to be in school. Why are we continuing to keep kids isolated and online when it has been shown schools are not the cause of community spread? Please stand up to those that aren't willing to put students first. As soon as we are into the red tier, PLEASE be ready and have the resolve to re-open this district.</p>
Anonymous	<p>WE ARE NOT COHORTING. The false narrative given to the community is we are open and in small group cohorts following CDPH guidelines and YES this includes the new guidelines issued last week. Sure self contained classrooms where students remain all day are true cohorts. But the other special groups allowed to come on campus are mixing and meddling among each other and in the learning common areas in violation of the cohort guidelines that are 14 student to 2 staff ratio kept separate from each other. Refresh yourself on the CDPH rules and stop using the term cohort.</p>
Cheryl Dunbar	<p>I would like to ask the board to please have everything ready for the general population return to campus the day we are allowed to do so. NO MORE EXCUSES.</p>

Name	Comment
Patrick Burke	<p>The longer we keep schools closed, the more we risk our students no longer be competitive. We must put our students on a level playing field for learning with millions of other students in California, nationwide and globally NOW. In San Diego County, 79% of public school students remain in on-line learning in San Diego County. Next door, Orange County has many schools open for hybrid or full time on campus learning. Nationally and globally, we are seriously lagging behind other states and countries in reopening schools. This is leading to dangerous levels of learning Loss, critical losses of socialization skills. If we continue in distance learning until the end of school year, over 30% of high school for Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors will have been in distance learning. There have been sharp Increase in the Number of Ds and Fs in classes. And what happened to the notion of Hold Harmless from last spring? That concept should apply here if opening is done safely and we have shown it can be. Finally, statistics show that suicide is the cause of more high school student deaths than COVID-19. Per Dr. Redfield, the Director of the CDC, in high schools, "we're seeing, sadly, far greater suicides now than we are deaths from COVID. We're seeing far greater deaths from drug overdose that are above excess that we had as background than we are seeing the deaths from COVID." To mitigate all of the above harms, we need to get students back in class NOW.</p>
Cynthia Rajsbaum	<p>We all want our kids back in school. Our goal should not be only to open but to remain safely open. Please follow best practices and start now preparing for reopening and COMMUNICATE WITH ALL STAKE HOLDERS providing specific information. San Diego Unified is already testing students in partnership with UCSD. Everyone will be tested every two weeks. We need to plan to include student testing. We need clear specific information for informed decisions. Saying filters is not enough, which filters, where are they? What volume are they for? what is the classroom volume? Are they considering an open door or window? These are only a couple of examples. Having all the principals send an email which is coming from the district is not straightforward. If it's a district email it should come from the district. You need to restore trust in the board after months of lack of communication. I know this precedes some of you but for us in the outside the frustration keeps building.</p> <p>Please follow public health guidelines. Clearly state that everyone in a classroom will be notified if there is a positive case, not just those who need to quarantine. Ask your legal counsel how others are doing this. Also please state clearly that teachers can telework. We don't want a loss of qualified teachers.</p> <p>Please make our safety measures strong and specific. We are minimally open and we already have a middle school that has to close due to Covid cases and another one that is close to being required to close. This may force the entire district to close and this is before we even open. Our goal should be to remain safely open and not to merely reopen and have to close because we refuse to follow the science. The push to open at all costs is dangerous and misguided. Such reckless actions particularly stress your students from minority communities that have already been hard hit. Collaborate with your teachers and parents in finding solutions and not just one group. We are looking to you for leadership to regain a small piece of normal and re establish trust.</p>
Anonymous	<p>OPEN SCHOOLS WHEN IT IS SAFE AND FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS.</p> <p>I would like to express my disappointment in the division currently visible within our communities and district. Up until schools closed, and despite being on my third child in the district, I had never watched a board meeting. I am dismayed by the way board members treat each other and the clear alliances for which "side" you are on. Are you on the "ready to go" side or are you on the "details" side. The details get us all to be "ready to go."</p> <p>In my experience, when we approach an issue with this mindset we will never come to a resolution. The Board and Districts lack of transparency and inability to provide one unified comunique in this ever changing landscape leaves gaps for people to "insert own information or thought here." Everyone wants their children back in school but the "minutiae" of how that happens with all the "rules" we have to follow has to be clearly and openly communicated. And only when this occurs and we follow the science can we sure we did it in the safest way possible.</p> <p>I understand the rules are a shifting landscape, but the lack of details that parents receive causes dissent and upset. For example, Torrey Pines just said: Vaccination (staff have begun to be vaccinated) This statement is way too general when we all see in the news that educators are not yet eligible. So due to my feeling of lack of trust I think well that was carefully worded to make things look better than they are. Let's stop hiding behind generalised information that gets us nowhere. Make a plan and be transparent! We all have covid fatigue but I also have people who don't appear to know their arses from their elbows fatigue. OPEN SAFELY and respect EVERYONE this effects.</p>

Name	Comment
Julie Bronstein	<p>I am a parent with 2 students in the district and a 2020 graduate.</p> <p>Yesterday, Jan. 20th, we saw the Inauguration of President Joe Biden and VP Kamala Harris and celebrated the return of leaders who promote science informed policies and decisions. Concurrently, SD County reported a record high number of COVID-19 deaths. You would never know it from the way in which the District appears to be continuing to force our schools to open recklessly in violation of current CDPH guidance which states that schools that are not already open cannot reopen until 5 days after the county has been out of the purple tier. The District should and must follow the CDPH guidance and use this time to make schools safer. With Oak Crest Middle School now closed for 14 days, a science-backed reopening plan is even more critical to a sustainable school reopening. It just doesn't make sense to reopen more broadly while community transmission is so high with the likely outcome of schools needing to close again, even for special needs students. This will likely lead to more instability for students.</p> <p>I received an email from the principals at both the middle and high school my kids attend indicating that 7 mitigation measures have been deployed on their campuses. 2 of the measure make my eyebrows raise: testing and vaccination. With the testing location closed down for teachers, where are teachers being tested and how often? Re. vaccinations, according to the County we are currently in Phases 1A and 1B. Teachers are NOT included in either of these phases. Rather, teachers are included in Phase 1B which has NOT yet started. It is certainly quite possible that health techs and others who work in health related work at the schools are able to receive their vaccinations. However, in general, teachers are not currently able to receive their vaccinations. I find it disingenuous that the District is providing "spin" to parents that the teachers are already eligible for vaccination and receiving them. Please be transparent and let the community know the current status of testing and vaccinating.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I want to thank the board for taking the time to digest the new guidelines. It shows that you understand the magnitude of your decisions. As Covid cases continue to surge in our Community it is comforting to know you understand the importance of your actions. I hope that you will use all of your resources when you make a plan to reopen. From the District Executive Staff, School Site Admin team, and local experts you have all of the tools to make a safe reopening plan. Our Schools are in a highly ranked District and the Covid Safety plan should match the caliber of that ranking.</p>
Alison Tickle	<p>I implore the board to consider safety not politics as they discuss the new guidelines and what they mean. The case numbers continue to rise, and it is impacting schools, even those with just priority groups on campus. Even with the cohorts on campus at my site, there is not enough supervision available during lunch to make sure that kids are distancing according to the guidelines. Bringing back larger groups is daunting without sufficient people power. There must be a detailed, fully-staffed plan for each school site before we move forward, and I ask once again that you listen to the expertise of Bryan Marcus, Mark Miller, and Brie Weatherford regarding allowing us to proceed with a gradual re-opening after we are out of the purple tier, giving us--those in the trenches--to see what is working and what isn't before moving to the next level.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I'm a junior at TPHS. I need to be back in school as soon as possible. I miss my friends, my teachers, my campus and being on at team.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Failure to thrive. Our teenagers are currently mired in a situation wherein they are unable to thrive because they have been cut off from in-person interaction with their peers and teachers. The students must be allowed to come together at schools in a manner that is much more unrestricted than allowed under the current arrangement.</p> <p>We all recognize that Covid is real, that contracting the virus can indeed be devastating to the most vulnerable and at-risk segments of our population. But just as nurses and doctors working in hospitals treating the most serious COVID cases can take the proper precautions to prevent their own infection, healthy people in society can likewise take precautions to protect one another from the virus. We cannot put our lives entirely and indefinitely on hold to exist solely in protective, isolated bubbles while pretending (deluding ourselves into believing) that Zoom meetings are a reasonable substitute for genuine interpersonal interaction. Our youth who are in the most critical developmental stages of their education desperately need to experience true human to human engagement and interaction.</p> <p>We are fast approaching one full year of this district's refusing to allow our youth to participate in sports or simply to physically attend school on campus. In place of the endless debating and procrastinating that has characterized the district's approach to COVID over the past ten months, an actual plan to physically return to school needs to be constructed and ratified, bearing in mind first and foremost (above all else) the emotional and physical well-being of our children. Indeed, it is not in their best interest to be locked into "virtual safe spaces" or offered "online emotional support" during their imprisonment. To thrive, they need to live their lives physically among one another.</p>

Name	Comment
Aakash Mishra	<p>I stated my opinions in last month's meeting, but I'll state them again. Please, I'm begging all the trustees to place the safety of the SDUHSD community members above all else. There shouldn't be a hurry, can we please wait until it's safe? Believe me, I'd love to go back to in-person learning. But not like this. Safety comes before our own intrinsic wants, because safety isn't optional. Unless I'm mistaken, there is nothing of higher priority than the collective well-being of the district's students, teachers, and families. As much as I would love to say that I understand the board's rationale for reopening, I continue to remain in utter confusion and dismay after a month. Many of the trustees have taken impudent actions regarding the reopening of schools, including one of the trustees suggesting a teacher should be fired for being concerned about the safety of his students and family. Other trustees have remained complicit at the obvious injustices placed against teachers—at one point, the educators, which may I remind you are working day and night to ensure us students receive the education we deserve, were faced with the asinine choice of whether to risk their own and their families health, or to take unpaid leave. I'm not sure if the elected trustees have noticed, but unpaid leave isn't an option for many teachers, and in some cases, neither is teaching in person. I've had the privilege of learning from teachers who haven't even gone to a grocery store since March to ensure the safety and health of their newborn baby, yet the board intends to take that away from them. Again, I plead the trustees of the board to prioritize safety above whatever scatterbrained motive they may have. Thank you for your attention and time, and I hope that my comment will at least give you some food for thought, if not anything more.</p>
Jen Goswami	<p>Dr. Haley and Trustees,</p> <p>As a District parent with a multi-generational household, I am glad the you have decided to follow the CDPH guidance in terms of reopening.</p> <p>I hope the District is able to use this time to firm up the elements of a safe reopening plan so that we can be ready to go by the time we meet those requirements. Specifically, I hope the District makes clear that the mask policy on campus is zero tolerance for non-compliance. This is one of the requirements universally referenced by experts to prevent viral spread in schools. Also, please ensure that parents are notified of positive cases in their classes and otherwise on campus.</p> <p>On a different note, I would like to express concern at the changes to the athletic season for our District Swim and Dive teams. Last week there was a sudden and unanticipated swap between swim and water polo seasons. This might have been a good plan in the Fall, but now the swim teams are left scrambling to find pool space and will face a shortened season after being cheated out of a season last Spring. If our District had an aquatic facility, this would not be an issue. Whoever made this decision needs to take a long look at the inequity faced by Swim and Dive last year and now again this year.</p> <p>Staff and teachers, thank you for all the hard work you have put into distance learning. The data you have presented (at least for CCA) shows that the majority of our students are coping well all things considered through these challenging times.</p>
Ruth Baurle	<p>The new CDPH guidance is incredibly arbitrary and discriminatory. Either it is dangerous to have schools open in the purple tier or it is not. Under the latest guidelines, Newsom has shown his hand. By allowing certain schools that are considered "open" to keep expanding while others are shut down completely, he has proven that school closure is no longer a public safety issue. It is a political power play pure and simple. Newsom won't cross the CTA, his biggest political contributor and supporter. So who will suffer for that? Our kids. SDUHSD students will fall further behind the private schools, charter schools and schools in other states as well as around the world. Why are we endangering our kids' futures so the union can push for its hidden agenda of defunding the police and disbanding charter schools (their only free competition) and whatever other political agenda items they are trying to accomplish that have absolutely nothing to do with education. Board members, please fight this. Get our plans in order and communicate our district's readiness to open to your community. Have principals hold interactive town halls, show us campus site maps with all the plan details outlined on the diagrams. Convince us you are ready to open the moment we enter the red tier or Newsom's guidelines are declared discriminatory and illegal. Share your plans, negotiate with teachers and get them back into their classrooms, teaching from campus so they are ready to welcome students back to campus. Meanwhile, expand cohorts and PLEASE make some plans for our seniors. They need to make some memories and have some fun. Please keep fighting for our students. They need you in their corner and they are WORTH IT!</p>

Name	Comment
Shiva Kansagara	<p>Our student voices are not to be heard only when it is convenient to the board. If you wish to listen to one of us, you must listen to all of us. I am a student and I believe that it is not yet safe to return to schools. Cases in California are still rising and schools have been found to be vectors for transmitting this deadly virus. The vaccine has been out for only a couple of months, and students have even gained access to it yet. If we wait to reopen for a couple more months, a majority of the students can return vaccinated, allowing that extra layer of protection. On the other hand, if we rush to reopen and many catch COVID, reopening will likely be delayed even longer.</p> <p>Please, I urge you to listen to science, credible health experts, and provide a more meticulous and deliberate plan for reopening. Our health, our family's health, our friends' health, and our teachers' health is at risk. I urge you once more to listen to ALL students; every single one that has an opinion on the reopening plan. 10 students do not speak for all students. Thank you.</p>
Amanda Davies	<p>Under California Department of Health Guidance, teachers in SDUHSD can safely be on campus teaching from their classrooms. Since a resolution to do this was already passed by our school board last fall, it is time to make this happen. This will ensure that once the general population of students is allowed back on campus for in-person instruction, it will be a quick and smooth transition. I truly hope that going forward the board, superintendent, and teacher's union will put the interests of the students in our district first. The evidence is clear, schools can open safely. Schools are not places of transmission. The experts agree on this. They are actually the safest place for our students. Schools exist to serve students. It is time to serve the students of SDUHSD. Schools across our country have been open safely for months. Covid does not only exist in CA. We can and must be ready to open safely.</p>
Concerned Parent	<p>The closure of Oak Crest this week due to COVID cases is concerning, especially given the very small population of students being served on campus.</p> <p>My prayers go out to the families of these students and staff members and I hope our community will do all we can to help them through this difficult time.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the district's response to our first outbreak leaves much to be desired.</p> <p>Oak Crest families were not notified of the individual cases on campus. Parents continued to send their children to extracurricular events and pickups.</p> <p>The letter to Oak Crest families from the district was not transparent and did not even mention COVID cases as the reason for the closure.</p> <p>Even more disheartening is the district's obvious coordinated PR email campaign to all schools forced through principals that same day to combat any negative thoughts or concerns families might have about the district's safety protocols.</p> <p>Instead, SDUHSD should take responsibility and assure parents that the situation will be thoroughly investigated by the district and the County and reported to SDUHSD families before any other students are allowed on campus.</p> <p>This would represent a good faith effort of SDUHSD to hone its safety protocols instead of just being defensive and insisting that all is fine, to trust the district, and still tell families NOTHING.</p> <p>If this is how the district continues to deal with COVID, that is NOT OK.</p>
Brad Silcox	<p>Every day another study shows that in-person is not a significant COVID risk to students, faculty or administrators. Please follow the CDC recommendations to re-open our schools and educate our students in person. If that is not a current possibility due to state mandates, make sure you have a solid plan in place to get students on campus the day it becomes legal per state guidelines. Do not let the SDFa determine when or how our schools are to re-open, it is a joint decision between all stakeholders, not one single interest group.</p>