

Name of Speaker	Written Comment
<b>Item #3 - CLOSED SESSION</b>	
Anonymous	I would like to see more transparency from the district and that these closed sessions be open. There shouldn't be any secrecy as to how my children receive an education. What do the teachers want? Why are parents being left in the dark about this stuff?
Anonymous	I would like to see the Teachers Union Representative address the board in a public setting. As parents we value and care for our teachers- we want them protected and we want to know what their requests are before returning to in person instruction. Without this transparency it feels like integrity is lacking from this process. I am a former teacher, current parent and I believe parents deserve to be informed on what the Union is demanding.
Michael Allman	<p>The hallmarks of good governance for boards representing the public interest include honesty, integrity, and transparency. This is why I must object to Agenda Item 3(b), Conference with Labor Negotiators, being conducted in closed session.</p> <p>I fully expect that this discussion will include the policies and procedures that the teacher's union would like to see adopted before they will recommend that the teachers return to on-campus instruction. Why can't this be conducted in public?</p> <p>I have been asked by many parents a simple question: What do the teachers want to see put in place so that they will feel comfortable returning to in-person teaching? Do they want improved sanitation procedures? New filters on air-conditioners? A maximum of 30 students in any one class? What do they want?</p> <p>The only answer I can give the parents is "I don't know, because these discussions take place behind closed doors." If I deliver this answer in person, I have to be prepared to duck. This shouldn't work this way.</p> <p>Please instruct the Teacher's Union Representative to join the board meeting in public session and let the public hear from the union directly. We deserve transparency. Does the union want the teachers to go back to school? If not, what do they need to see before returning? These are basic questions the board should ask, and parents have a right to hear the answers.</p>
Lee Ann	It is very important that we have open meetings. I hope the board will do everything in its power to be as transparent as possible.
Duncan Brown	<p>What is the plan for second quarter? I have asked Dr. Haley and the district leadership countless times. Dr Haley refuses to discuss it. I find it hard to believe that he doesn't know exactly what he would like to do. The choices are really quite simple. If we don't have local control and remain under the current restrictions, students would be able to access campus one day a week and would learn virtually the other days. The only other choice under this CDPH guidance, is to remain in distance learning.</p> <p>If we resume local control, what are your plans for reopening? We have been told the delay of any plan is based on everything is subject to change. We understand things can change, but not to plan for the likely event is irresponsible, manipulative and potentially dangerous. Any change to the current model will take a great deal of planning, which would include student and staff safety. We can not take this for granted. This community has always expected the best and deserves a thoughtfully implemented plan with time to survey all stakeholders. There has not been a formal survey to the community or staff members since April. Our community, our staff and our students deserve to know. What's the plan for second quarter?</p>
<b>Item #8 - Public Comment / NON-AGENDA Items</b>	
Anonymous	<p>I am a member of Encinitas4Equality and a resident of the district. E4E-Youth reached out numerous times to have an item on the agenda for tonight and we were continually ignored or pushed aside. The BIPOC students, both current and former, in the district you serve regularly experience racism in your schools and that alone merits them an opportunity to speak before you. Your students, with the backing of Encinitas4Equality, the NAACP, North County Civil Liberties Union, and North County SURJ want to be able to help the Board address what changes can be made to make all the schools you serve more welcoming and safe places for all. The casual and blatant racism students face is just as important to the safety and well-being of the students that you serve. Again, many other local school districts have made commitments. Here are the list of others who have made commitments to change: Vista Unified, Encinitas Union, Poway Unified, Irvine Unified, Sweetwater Union, Carlsbad Unified and San Diego Unified.</p> <p>The Mission of the E4E Youth Committee is to empower youth via solution-oriented dialogue and action to advocate for racial equity and social justice in both their education and community. This is just what they are trying to do by engaging you, the people elected to serve their educational experience - One that I hope you would support in making better.</p>
Anonymous	LCC High School should re open for all kids not just special needs, at risk, etc. All of our kids are becoming "at risk" by not getting to socialize, having 6 hours of screen time, no organized exercise like PE, football. 97 percent survival rate for Covid and most of these high schools are not at risk, I can not speak about their family members at home of course. Check temperatures if you need to, invest in machines that have UV light/spray (Mexico has these). Kids could go thru these in the morning just like we all do at the airport for X-ray or the courthouse. Let's put up tents outside, parents will help assemble. Teachers can wear a haz mat suits if they choose.
John Finkelman	LA Unified School District's Class of 2027, San Diego Unified School District's Class of 2024, and Fresno Unified School District's Class of 2022. These are the students that will have an ethnic studies graduation requirement. These are the three largest school districts in the State of California. When will the San Dieguito Union High School District catch up? Increased education and increased learning are the backbones of the logic that these districts used to decide that they would implement an ethnic studies requirement. Why would a school board oppose more education? Why would a school board oppose giving its students the opportunity to learn more? This is about the sort of future we want to create. This is about the sorts of mistakes from the past we plan on repeating. AB 331 passed the Assembly in August and is expected to be signed into law by Governor Newsom later this month. Instead of waiting until the graduating class of 2030, this board has a chance to show North County what we believe in and the values we hold-- enacting an ethnic studies requirement ahead of time not only demonstrates an understanding that the forces of racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia have no place in our society but also shows a deep commitment to the belief that an increased education empowers our students to think for themselves and create their own future.
BK	Good evening board of trustees, I would like to speak on behalf of some of the numerous parents of children with special needs like myself who have been sued by for-profit law firms your district contracts with. While your district allows unfettered litigation against your students with disabilities, to the tune of 100s or thousands in lawyer fees being racked up when a case may take a few weeks at the OAH, your SPED students are failing at alarming rates, unable to pass nor exceed grade level standards in ELA and math. Many of your minority Latin(x) and Black students are also failing, and it begs to question, what is happening to the children that are caught in the intersection. Please spend the money you're GIVING AWAY to lawyers to deny your students a fair and appropriate education, and use it to build your curriculum, hire more and pay your teachers so they stay invested in their job and feel their sense of purpose, and INVEST in your students. Your students with disabilities need you to stand up to FFF, DWK and the other law firms and fight for them.
Frances Chai	<p>School curriculum is not representative of this country's diversity, specifically, the English, Literature, and history lessons are whitewashed, leaving a big part of this country's narrative out.</p> <p>As students, we need to learn about the BIPOC experience. We need to learn about racism in this country. We will no longer be passively sitting in class, learning from solely the white perspective, while BIPOC, especially Black Americans, continue to get murdered.</p> <p>To ensure a country of anti-racist leaders, we need to actively fight racism. We need to have conversations about bias, race, and identity. As stated in our mission statement, this is only possible through "the integration of anti-racist texts and diverse texts." Diversify Our Narrative's proposal for this implementation, as well as other information and resources about this initiative, can be found on our website (diversifyournarrative.com).</p> <p>The petition in favor of this proposal has 62,560 signatures and counting across the country. 304 of these signatures are from SDUHSD students, parents, educators, and alumni. That is 304 people from this district who want change.</p> <p>BIPOC voices must be heard. When the curriculum is rewritten, there must be BIPOC students, teachers, parents, etc in the room where it happens. DON, Encinitas4Equality, CCA's Raven Diversity Board, and other organizations leading the charge against racism in education want to have meetings with the board to communicate our vision for this change.</p> <p>George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Atiana Jefferson. Aura Rosser. Stephon Clark. Botham Jean. Philando Castille. Alton Sterling. Michelle Cusseaux. Freddie Gray. Janisha Fonville. Eric Garner. Akai Gurlley. Gabriella Nevarez. Tamir Rice. Michael Brown. Tanisha Anderson, and countless more should still be alive.</p> <p>We need to do more than remember their names and stories. We need to make sure that the system that has failed them will not continue. This change begins in the classrooms.</p> <p>Thank you, SDUHSD's Diversify Our Narrative chapter</p>
Sandra Rickert	<p>Dear Board of Trustees Members,</p> <p>Families should be given a choice whether to send their children back to school for in person instruction now that it is officially allowed or whether to remain online. Many students and parents have been asking for a comprehensive plan to return to campus in a safe manner for some time now. I am entirely supportive of giving priorities to special needs students, English learners and other students of high needs to return to campus safely first, but the planning should not stop here.</p> <p>It is disappointing that a school district like ours that is supposed to be "world-class" has been unable to devise a comprehensive plan and associated timelines for students to return to campus in a safe and phased manner. Instead, we have received no communication or emails that lack substance and a forward-looking vision. COVID-19 is likely here to stay with us for the next couple of years. Is the district plan to keep our students online for the upcoming years?</p> <p>I am writing today to respectfully ask for your support to urge the district for transparency and proactivity instead of reactivity. Why not take this opportunity to help lead the way instead of waiting to see what other schools/ districts are doing and how it is going there? The current state comes at the expense of the emotional/ social well-being of our students and their academic growth as well.</p> <p>Thanks in advance for your consideration.</p>
Taylor Lee	<p>This agenda item is wonderful in concept, but words and actions are different. This is what the youth have been trying to meet with you about. In order to make this item/goals possible the District needs to work with students current/former and community members of color, not just advisors/consultants. Many Districts have hired consultants that are not people of color to help lead these initiatives (ex: EUSD). I support this item, but if the District is serious about this and not just putting words out there, then you need to meet with the students requesting and wanting to work with you. Students through E4E, CCA's Raven's Club and the District wide club Diversify Our Narrative.</p> <p>On an additional note, per Ed. Code 35145.5, the Education Code requires districts to honor public requests to agendize items where the items "directly relate to school district business." The students have been requesting an agenda item all Summer that allows them to share their experiences with racism in their district schools on record.</p> <p>We cannot wait any longer until after the pandemic, etc. Please let students speak to you and have this on the agenda about these important issues and topics.</p>

Name of Speaker	Written Comment
Aakash Mishra	<p>Our district needs to change. The curricula within our schools are no longer adequate enough to qualify as education, as they lack much needed diversity to be taught to young adults now more than ever. I look back on my experiences in certain classes and stand in shock of the extent to which courses leave out the stories and struggles of non-white people throughout history. In other words, reading Steinbeck and Hemingway every year and being tested solely on the whitewashed history textbooks can no longer pass as proper education for our students.</p> <p>The change I speak of isn't necessary solely for students; it's time that teachers understand the importance of teaching diversity in class. If a course lacks instruction on diversity, it's no different than saying that the course is exclusive to the perspectives of a majority throughout history. By continuing to teach exclusive courses, we fail to be an all-inclusive district. A district that is exclusive should not be supported to continue in its ways. Thus, I believe that teachers need to include diversity in their courses whenever they can. Ella Sobhani, a senior at Canyon Crest Academy, wrote a letter to the district which suggests changes to better diversify the classes and communities at SDUHSD; the letter has nearly 300 signatures (and counting) in support.</p> <p>Diversity in SDUHSD is extremely important. As evident from the recent events in our country, people of certain backgrounds (more specifically, non-white populations) have faced major injustices for centuries. I did not learn of the actuality of the injustices through my education at Canyon Crest Academy, as the majority of the material that speaks about "diversity" is whitewashed, especially in English and History classes. If students don't fully learn the stories of all varieties of individuals, backgrounds, and cultures, they are being educated to practically look the other way on the issues with diversity in the world. I hope that (just like me), you fail to see how teaching ignorance is justified.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>--Aakash Mishra</p>
Ema Nastic	<p>My name is Ema Nastic and I am the founder of the Raven Diversity Board at Canyon Crest Academy, as well as a member of Encinitas4Equality and Diversify Our Narrative. We students from SDUHSD have been united under a single cause; we believe that a racially conscious and ethnically diverse education is necessary for SDUHSD schools. In order to eliminate the conscious and subconscious racism which members of the BIPOC community encounter, as well as raise a generation of students who are aware of their own privileges and biases, we ask that the board consider our letter of requests by Ella Sobhani and the CCA Diversity Board. We hope that students from our initiatives will be able to work with you, and with consultants who are themselves people of color, in the near future to establish a more diverse curriculum. I am sure you are aware that other districts have already taken steps to further provide this necessary education to their students, and SDUHSD can be no exception. We hope that you will take action, to prepare a generation of leaders who are educated on the racial disparities of our country, and to foster an environment where students feel that they must stand up for what is right in order to achieve change.</p>
Marianne Grosner	<p>Dear Superintendent and board of trustees, I have a couple of concerns: One is I've spoken at several board meetings since June asking about transparency regarding the use of attorney fees in special education matters. During the June 5th board meeting, the board stated they would provide a comparison spreadsheet of legal rates for special education law firms. As of today, September 17th, I still have not heard anything from the District regarding this so I was wondering when the board was going to provide this information to the public?</p> <p>The second item are your 2018-2019 SARC's (School Accountability Report Cards). There seems to be a concerning trend. There is a subset of kids that are not meeting state standards. Across the board, it seems the Hispanics, Socioeconomically disadvantaged, English Language Learners and students with disabilities, in some cases are not meeting state standards at all. Case in point, La Costa Canyon has tested 19 ELL students in English and 0% met or exceeded statewide testing. Only 5% of La Costa Canyon's ELL students met or exceeded Math statewide testing. Also for Sunset High School only 9% of ALL students met or exceeded expectations for Math. San Dieguito High School Academy saw similar dismal results in Math testing as well. 36% of Hispanics, 31% of socioeconomically disadvantaged, 6% of ELL and 29% of student with disabilities - they all scored well below state average. I wonder why there is such a disparity and what we can do to bring up those number for these groups?</p> <p>And I'd like to ask the district again if they can be more transparent by providing the public with a breakdown of special education spending at a future board meeting. I've brought this up for several months and I know others have made similar comments as well. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Hello! I would appreciate it if you guys worked to help create an anti-racism environment throughout SDUHSD. The students at SDUHSD want an anti racist curriculum to be put in place, we have even created our own project to help teachers introduce conversations about race into the classrooms of CCA. Both the Raven Diversity Board and Encinitas 4 Equality would love to work together with you to help our school district be on the right side of history. Thank you!</p>
Anonymous	<p>Last spring, I posted to my classroom with resources about racism. I asked students to pick one to reflect on with the option to share their experiences. I'd like to share some of what they wrote:</p> <p>"I can empathize because I've experienced antisemitism. Also thank you for being my only teacher to say anything about this"</p> <p>"I read all of the resources. I wanted as much information that I could about how racism is affecting many people."</p> <p>"I experience racism everyday at lcc and it is really hard, ...I feel too different and like everyone is hiding hatred from me, It makes me feel like the higher up staff knows what's going on but they blow over it because they don't want their school to be seen as racist, I never ever stand up for myself or speak out because they are just "kidding" and I feel too weak or awkward to speak up, and when I do they defend themselves or say it's a joke, and when I get mad I'm just "wack" for taking it so seriously, it makes focusing in class really hard and answering questions out loud terrifying because I feel every time I speak I'm being judged based off of my color."</p> <p>COVID is not an excuse to kick the can of racial justice down the road. If anything, it has turned a spotlight on our shortcomings. Our EL students are sharing a single, part time bilingual aid who has to split her time between them all. Our BIPOC students' histories and perspectives are erased by outdated curriculum. Punitive distance learning policies penalize our most vulnerable populations. Our teachers are not empowered to address racism in the classroom, despite requests for anti-racism training, action, and leadership. Our community views us as disinterested in equity at best, and down right against it at worst. Our students are begging for change. Can we truly say we "support all of our students and everyone in our community" if we can't acknowledge these problems? They do not have the luxury of postponing racism; we should not have the luxury of postponing dealing with it in our schools.</p>
Katrina Young	<p>COVID-19 has disrupted all of our lives, leaving us with many complex issues to tackle, all at the same time, and no easy solutions. We have seen that recently with the ongoing conversations about equality, social justice, and inclusion. We certainly see that with the all the discussions in our community about virtual learning. Both issues make the news on a daily basis. Given that, I respectfully ask that SDUHSD give the students' request to start conversations about diversity and equality the attention it deserves. We all agree that of all the voices in a school district, the students' voices should always be prioritized. As such, they should have every opportunity to be heard. Again, I fully respect and understand that our community (and certainly our leaders within our community) is faced with the extraordinarily important task of figuring out virtual learning platforms and moving toward safe in-person learning. However, especially knowing that SDUHSD has taken increased measures on mental health to support our children, I see this issue, as something that falls squarely in that arena. Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p> <p>Katrina Young, SDUHSD Candidate - Area 2</p>
Dan Chambers	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>I'm concerned about the shortened periods of instruction for the 2020/21 school year. My youngest child is a junior at SDA, which uses the 4x4 schedule. I understand that last year, pre-COVID, her classes were each 1h 40m long (100'). This year, while again in a 4x4 format, I understand her classes have been shortened to 60' each, alone a 40% reduction per class. I also understand that about 10' per class is spent taking attendance, dealing with IT issues, etc. Thus, actual classroom instruction in today's online-only format may be as little as 50% as compared to pre-COVID, in-person instruction. And this year she will take 5 AP classes (2 currently, 3 next semester). It is imperative that the Board weigh this reduction in teaching with the District's mission to educate our children.</p> <p>Sincerely, Dan Chambers</p>
Anonymous	<p>I wanted to share how our family has been victimized by the law firm of Fagen Friedman and Fulfrost which your district contracts with. Amid the Corona Virus Outbreak, FFF is Suing Children with Disabilities. They have filed a myriad of legal actions to deny services to children with disabilities during the pandemic. It is a kick them while they are down tactic. FFF has resorted to dirty tactic such as hiring private investigators to conduct what amounts to government funded surveillance.</p> <p>I recently filed a complaint with the State Bar about FFF they filed a legal action in federal court over \$8.40. There is a Motion to the Court pending. But rather than wait for the Court to rule on the Motion, FFF filed an untimely and frivolous action in court seeking 1,21% interest for one month's worth of interest on the \$12, 160. The amount sought by FFF is \$ 8.40. FFF is abusing the system by filing a premature action when they knows full well the issue is currently being appealed. I believe that FFF's actions are designed to intimidate me from pursuing legal remedies to obtain special education services for my daughter.</p> <p>The issues I raise apply to the San Diego area because FFF will use their same tactics on San Diego students. Please request that your staff provide a breakdown of how much has been spent on special education litigation. Please look into how FFF is using San Diego tax dollars and spend your money on teachers not lawyers. Thank you for your time, #Moreteachersleslawyers</p>
Anonymous	<p>The same attorney Tiffany Hazelwood, Special Education Attorney worked on in a special education due process, is the same attorney San Bernardino County office of Education for charter schools. Special Education operates in the red. Students in special education have legal agreements with District that parents sign every year. Student in general education don't have legal agreements. Because special education students have legal agreements, for profit law firms are involved in their education. A former Superintendent told me that this is big business for the law firms. As a former "parent" I know how terrible the world of special education is for some districts for parents and students.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Racial Identity and Racism manifests and influences everywhere and in every facet. A product of this racism lives in Education - including the SDUHSD - and Manifests in the priority of White narratives and erasure of stories of Black, Indigenous and other people of color. These narratives are not adequate in providing a complete education, they show only one side of the story. English classes are crowded with White authors, even with books explicitly discussing race and non white experience. In teaching History in America, textbooks dedicate extremely limited portions to address Black and Indigenous stories.</p> <p>Both Students and Teachers are beginning to understand the effects of racism and the importance of teaching diversity. Currently a letter by Ella Sobhani, a senior at CCA, suggests changes to better diversify the classes and communities at SDUHSD and is signed with 300 signatures (and counting) in support. I urge the SDUHSD board to stand with your community, ensure a complete curriculum, and fight oppression.</p>
<p><b>Item #10a - CONSIDERATION AND ACTION REGARDING THE 2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR REOPENING OF SCHOOLS CONSISTENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH MANDATE/GUIDELINES AND THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER</b></p>	

Name of Speaker	Written Comment
Anonymous	We have three students in the SDUHSD district who are concerned that we aren't hearing of a plan being drafted for onsite learning. The end of first quarter is coming quickly. Please communicate to the public what the board is doing at the current moment to draft a plan to allow students on campus.
Anonymous	<p>I am an SDUHSD parent with grave concerns about the district re-opening plans.</p> <p>How are teachers being cared for? Why were some teachers given so little notice about returning to work and left to install their own plexiglass barriers? Pandemic management cannot be left to teachers to plan and control.</p> <p>How can students remain safe on campus? In the course of a school day, a single Middle and High School student can potentially mingle indoors with hundreds of other students and be in contact with multiple high-frequency touch points around campus - bathrooms, drinking fountains, desks, pencil sharpeners, door handles, etc. No classroom safety protocols or rules can mitigate the risk factor brought on by student movement throughout the day.</p> <p>How can our community remain safe? There are many families in the district who do not want, or cannot, send their students back to school during this pandemic. In our own family of four, we have multiple pre-existing conditions and we help care for my elderly parents, who also have many pre-existing conditions and are at great risk. We do not want our child to return to school and put her own family and community at risk of exposure.</p> <p>What options will we have? Details of the option of a year-long DL program were not included in the SDUHSD re-opening plan and leaves many of us wondering what options will be available to us after Oct 28. How can teachers possibly be expected to return to class to teach some students, while also providing a rigorous DL program to those who opt to learn at home?</p>
Susanne Klas	<p>All schools in SD County are officially allowed to open for in person learning since September 1st. If SDUHSD does not present a safe reopening plan and does not open our schools for the general student population after the 1st quarter our students deserve to know why.</p> <p>Please don't hide behind empty phrases and promises. Your communication so far has been misleading and we feel we are kept in the dark. The distance learning model is much better than in the spring, but it will not motivate and engage a large number of students for an extended period of time.</p> <p>Please live up to your principles:  Engaged ..... and committed to do what is best for our students  Inspired .... by schools and countries that successfully and safely bring their students back on campus  Prepared ..... to bring teachers and students safely back to where they belong.</p> <p>From a school district that claims to be world class, committed to the future, educating the leaders of tomorrow I don't want to hear about hurdles and problems of other schools and countries where it does not work. I expect this school district to meet the challenges of this time, to be solution orientated. We can not eliminate the risk, we have to mitigate it and live with it. Be ambitious and courageous, learn from schools around the world with solid plans and comprehensive measures and be a leading force in bringing our students back on campus safely. NOW.</p>
Abigail Colton	I want to go back to school because I'm currently experiencing a lot of negatives with distance learning. I receive headaches, eye issues, trouble focusing, and sometimes even feel depressed at the end of the day. I would do anything to be back on campus and to learn in person.
Lori Larocque	<p>Our children, their future and our community is at stake here. We initially closed the schools in March and kept them closed to "flatten the curve." We have successfully done that. It is now time to live with the virus and not hide from the virus. There are financial means and community support to safely return the students, teachers and staff to campus for in-person learning which is far superior to the Distance Learning model no matter how improved that has been from this past Spring.</p> <p>Aside from a child's home, no other setting has more influence on a child's health and wellness than their school and place of learning. The in-person school environment not only provides educational instruction, but supports the development of social and emotional skills, addresses the unique concerns of special needs students, and creates more equitable learning.</p> <p>I believe collectively we are all focused on the wellbeing of our children. Distance learning is simply not a substitute for in-person learning. I would respectfully ask the board to please give parents the choice of in-person or distance learning. It doesn't have to be either / or. Most schools that are opening to on-campus instruction also offer a distance learning option for those wish to stay home or a hybrid model. SDUHSD could do the same.</p> <p>We can unequivocally create a safe environment for learning with all the protocols in place to make everyone on campus feels safe. If other districts are doing it, then SDUHSD can too. Of course, that ultimate decision is predicated on if the board decides to do so.</p> <p>It would be my respectful request, among many others in this district and community at large, for this change to happen effective immediately. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.</p>
Anonymous	Others schools have reopened, only to close down within weeks, days, or even hours. How will you learn from those experiences, and what will you do differently to avoid the same outcome?
Anonymous	As a student in the SDUHSD district I am as eager as anyone to go back to school. I miss my friends and my teachers and school just isn't the same online. However, because I care about my friends and teachers so much I would like to see them alive and well, which is why I understand we can't go back to school yet, and I'm willing to wait. While my comment will be drowned out by wealthy white parents who think they're entitled to an opinion on this subject, when in reality they won't be endangering their lives everyday, I urge you to carry my comment with some weight. While many students at LCC and Torrey Pines are denying the severity of COVID, and many students at SDA are partying and hanging out with said irresponsible LCC students, there are also countless students who have skillfully avoided these students for the sake of their own health and safety. How is putting all these students in a room together with teachers going to help anyone? If we had to close schools and lock down with 30 COVID cases in Encinitas, why should we go back with thousands of cases here? This plan is idiotic and selfish. I beg that you do not let these parents pressure anyone into opening schools before we are genuinely safe, and other open schools are reflecting that. Thank you.
Anonymous	<p>I write to you as a parent and a life long child advocate by profession. My son is high-risk due to a chronic medical condition. I have, until recently, always felt that your district made him feel he mattered and his health mattered. A decision to re-open schools now is a clear message that he should just stay home so that others can resume "normal" high school life. In contrast, my other child is low-risk, misses in-person school desperately, but has zero confidence that the school would be able enforce rules or operate safely. She is extremely high achieving and loves school but has asked me to pull her from your district if you re-open now.</p> <p>I realize that the absence of in-person school is challenging for many students. What I have noted, however, is that the children who are most disadvantaged by online school, are not the vocal parents demanding the school reopen. In fact it is the parents of many of the most advantaged students, to whom COVID poses the least threat, that are the most vocal. The evidence is pouring in that COVID poses the greatest health risk to persons of color. To "re-open" schools in the face of that evidence is an act of racial injustice and prioritization of those most able to protect themselves from this disease.</p> <p>I am fully in support of the school doing whatever it can to assist those students who cannot access appropriate education online or need extra support. Let's prioritize those students. If other parents feels online learning is so averse to their student, then have a process whereby they can petition to have their student included in the "in-person" group regardless of lack of "special needs" status. Make those families take the affirmative step of signing contracts similar to those being asked of college students who wish to attend in person, and then return them to online learning if they cannot comply. But do not simply "re-open" schools en masse.</p>
Jennifer de la Fuente	<p>I am the parent of a senior at SDA, and I want nothing more than for her to return to in person school and enjoy the remainder of her senior year. However, I am writing to encourage the board to be thoughtful and prudent when planning on resuming in person classes. As we've seen from other school and college re-openings, rushing this process only leads to more cases and longer closures. Resuming school for a few weeks and then having to close back down again for a longer time period would be bigger hardship on our kids and staff. I want my daughter to have a prom and a graduation, but I think the likelihood of that is greater if we are patient in the short term and wait for the science and data to point to a good time to resume, not parental pressure.</p> <p>I was forwarded information about a Facebook group organized by Michael Allman, including his offer of a catered dinner or \$200 donation to charity of your choice if you refer members to his group. So I would encourage the board to look skeptically at the numbers of that group, which are inflated due to his bribery. I also question his grasp of the situation, since he's offering to host strangers in his home during a pandemic.</p> <p>I sympathize with the board having to make these tough decisions, and I realize that you can never please everyone. As a parent I feel your communication and leadership on this issue thus far has been steady and thoughtful, and I would encourage you to stay the course and demonstrate to our children what smart, compassionate, science-driven leadership looks like.</p>
Heidi Niehart	<p>Dear District Leadership,</p> <p>I know this is a very difficult time for our community and as leaders it is critical that you have forward thinking despite the limitations that are presented to you. As a parent and stakeholder in the district, I believe that we have the right to open dialogue and communication regarding our children.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please provide weekly communication at the district level even if it is letting us know that it is "status quo."</li> <li>2. Our children are falling behind – academically and socially. The stress level for seniors is incredible faced with college applications, lack of access to exams, peer connections, and face-to-face interactions with their teachers. They need to be back in school.</li> <li>3. Teacher safety should be a top consideration too. What can we do to help? Elementary school teachers have gotten very creative with their safe classroom set-ups for in-person learning. What would the teachers like for their classrooms? What can we do to help?</li> <li>4. Please allow those students who do not wish to return to the classroom an option for distance learning. Our district has a model for this and it should be implemented for those family's who wish to remain at home.</li> <li>5. The kids are online too much of the day – hours of classroom learning, then social media, television, homework assignments. The SDUHSD is designed for in-person learning. We MUST return to this model as soon as possible. Anything less is a dereliction of duty.</li> </ol> <p>Unprecedented times calls for action, innovation and bravery! Thank you for listening.</p>
Nikki estabrook	My son is a freshman at LCC and is struggling to remain engaged with distance learning. Everyday, every class, he is let out early. He has no peers, teachers or coaches providing him with the peer pressure he needs to remain engaged and successful. I am a nurse and everyday I go to work and take care of my patients. I am very aware that I am at risk of getting covid in my line of work, but I know it is my duty and responsibility to do my job. It is the educators duty to educate my son. I'm extremely frustrated with the lack of preparation this district has done to get our kids back in school. If your paycheck depended on it, our kids would all be back on campus. I encourage you to make plans to get our kids back on campus ASAP. It can be done safely. If you need help figuring it out I am anxious and happy to help. I send this respectfully and implore you, for the mental health of our kids, to open the schools. .

Name of Speaker	Written Comment
Anonymous	<p>I would ask the board to seriously consider reopening our schools in-person ASAP. While I applaud the effort to make this new school year distance learning more "robust" than what we experienced last Spring, it's still falling far short of expectations. My children are not engaged online even if they appear to be. Grades are not where I know they should be for them in some classes because of the struggle to stay engaged in front of a computer screen. Several teachers are not following the district's distance learning model of synchronous/asynchronous time. My daughter has one class that she has spent no more than 10 minutes each class period logged into a google meet with the teacher for the purpose of taking attendance. The teacher just assigns busy work at the beginning of the week to be completed by the end of the week. There has been no teacher led discussion, nor any small group discussions in this particular class. This is just one extreme example. Other teachers are hit and miss as to actually holding class for that day. Where is the accountability from the school and district administrations on educating the students of this district? We have already lost three months of learning in the Spring and now four weeks into this Fall semester and it's really adding up to a monstrosity of learning loss. Students are by far more motivated and held accountable by teachers when they are learning in-person at school.</p>
Anonymous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our kids social/mental well being is being seriously compromised as is evident from the sad and unfortunate suicide of the TP junior that my daughter has known since 7th grade. She knew him as the kid who always smiled, had a joke to share, loved his sport and his friends but being apart from all of that and being isolated he felt no other options. As parents we can only say and do so much to try and support her, she needs her peers, she needs her friends, she needs her teachers, counselors and coaches (her network that is currently stripped away) and not available for that crucial one on one in person time.</li> <li>• My mom taught over 20 years in the Encinitas district and said if she could she'd be coming out of retirement to be back in the classroom. She said as a teacher she feels like a front line worker and that nothing is more important to her then the education of her students. The feeling we got from BTS night was that most of our daughter's teachers were back in the classroom because that is where they feel most comfortable.</li> <li>• If parents have a choice (just like for grades last year) then each family can make the choice that is best for them. Choose to go back in the classroom, choose to be all on-line or choose a hybrid model but choice is the key need.</li> <li>• My daughter was part of the state winning and #1 ranked (in the nation) high school volleyball team. There is nothing that brings her more joy then playing for her high school. After such an amazing season last year how can sports be held back and not played when on the club side they've been safe and following all the safety protocols and guidelines from the CDC for months.</li> <li>• Distance learning is better then the spring but it's a band aid on top of a major artery severing. The focus, the engagement, the participation and the learning is NOT the same as in classroom.</li> </ul>
Anonymous	<p>We have current a current 9th grader and 11th grader at CCA. We are very impressed with the current distance learning model and send our compliments to the district, teachers and staff. There is consistency and structure with quality academics even at the AP level. We hope that this successful model and consistent structure that is working now is not disrupted mid-quarter and that the schools stay safely 100% remote learning through the next quarter. The system is working. Kids are settled into their classes and routines. While our ultimate goal is to return, now is not the time with numbers rising in San Diego, the risk of moving into the "purple" category even next week, and risks projected to only go up in the Winter. It would make no sense to create instability, risk the disruptive open/close cycles at school that businesses suffer, and spend a safe and very effective learning model already in place. Please stay the course in the second quarter and keep the schools 100% remote (with the notable exceptions for at high risk students as identified like English language learners, students with plans, foster kids, and others with higher risk of learning loss).</p>
Sara Appleton-Knapp	<p>I support the reopening of our schools if it is done safely. In addition to a mask mandate, I would like to see the district's plan for ventilation, air purification and social distancing (using an A/B model, cohorts, or other plan). Without these measures our schools cannot open safely. I expect our district to act based on science and not politics.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Dear SDUHSD Board Members,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for schools to reopen ONLY with the adoption of scientifically-supported measures that will allow students to return to campus safely. As a school district charged with the safe-keeping of thousands of lives, only the most rigorous of measures should be acceptable. These measures include maximized physical distancing, the creating of learning cohorts for effective tracking, required use of masks unless there are medical considerations, and the use of testing, installation of protective materials, such as plexiglass dividers, upgraded HVAC air filters, increased cleaning protocols, and access to sterilized hand-washing terminals and/or hand sanitizers.</p> <p>I do not believe that children, or their teachers, should be subjected to unnecessary health risks in order to participate in the educational process. The district takes measures to prevent the ingestion of polluted water because of proven harmful health effects, and so you should also prevent students from exposure to potentially infectious air. This is a novel virus who's short-term impact can be devastating, and whose long-term effects on people is completely unknown. Thus no one tasked with their safety should be cavalier about exposing children or educators. It seems reasonable to ask that they be given the same courtesy that many workers are given of having a workplace designed to keep them safe during a pandemic. Countless businesses and corporations have opted to enforce long-term work-from-home policies - because they are relying on science-based evidence that no communal workspace can be guaranteed to be safe in the near-term. If it is not safe enough for Google, Apple or Qualcomm employees to return to their campuses, please ask yourselves why anyone should think it is safe enough for our children and teachers to do so.</p> <p>I ask that you please exercise the utmost caution, and make decisions affecting the lives of the youth in your charge that is backed by only by medical research and scientific data, not peer pressure. Thank you.</p>
Erin Graff Zivin	<p>I am a parent in both the San Dieguito and Solana Beach school districts. As a university professor and department chair, I am sympathetic to the many challenges posed by COVID to secondary education educators and administrators. Making plans to reopen that respond to state and local guidelines in a constantly changing public health situation is challenging, to say the least. However, like many parents, I have been disappointed by the lack of communication regarding reopening plans. We know that classes will be held online for the first quarter, but no indications have been given as to what scenarios are in place for an eventual reopening (regardless of when that may happen). We understand that the fluidity of the situation and guidelines makes it impossible to have a single clear plan of action, but an articulation of a series of plans that might be undertaken would be a huge improvement over the current situation in which we are asked to offer comments without knowing the feasible set of options.</p> <p>It is understandable that the current requirements pose challenges for the schools in the SDUHSD, but we have heard nothing from the district regarding proposed solutions. Parents need to know whether any of the following solutions are being discussed: requiring a negative COVID test to attend school (as LA Unified plans to do); consideration of an A/B model to ensure physical distancing (as Solana Beach School District is doing); utilization of outdoor spaces for learning (as Del Mar Unified is doing); purchase of plexiglass dividers for use at desks, etc. Finally, what are the teachers expressing to the board? Why is that reserved for the closed session of the board meeting? How can parents help to support teachers as part of a safe reopening?</p>
Shannon Kearns Leshner	<p>First, I would like to commend the teachers, principals and administrative staff for their hard work since early spring on making the transition to online learning. I have kids at Earl Warren and CCA and what those schools have accomplished and their communication with parents is truly remarkable.</p> <p>My comment is going to be similar to the one I made in early spring. We all want to go back to in-person learning. That is not the issue. The issue is, how do we return to campus based on science and facts and the requirements established by local and state health officials? How do we go back in a way that protects the health and safety of our teachers, staff and students? This issue raises so many questions. Is there room to social distance on campuses? Are there safety measures that are feasible or some that are not? How feasible is it for everyone to return to campus during a pandemic? These questions must be answered by facts and science and should not be answered based on how many emails parents send or how many conversations the Superintendent has with parents and students.</p> <p>Therefore, I hope the Board will continue to do what it began in the summer. I hope the Board will support the various committees made up of stakeholders, including teachers and parents, so they can continue to meet and work together to plan the District's next step based on scientific facts and what is best for the health and safety of our teachers, staff and students.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Please vote to reopen schools. Our students are falling behind academically and most importantly their mental health is suffering. After almost 7 months at home our students are detached, unmotivated and desperately lonely. I urge you to prioritize allowing groups of students back on campus for sports, clubs, theatre/dance and group tutoring. All of these activities can be done in groups of 12 with masks and socially distanced. We can at least start there and give our kids a reason to re-engage. Beyond that we need a plan to bring learning back on campus. Other districts and schools have found solutions-it is time we did so as well. Many of us have gone to great lengths to live in this school district so our children can receive an excellent education. Distance learning has severe limitations and will never replace in person learning. We need our kids back in school to protect our their mental health and to allow them to regain the academic progress that has been lost.</p>
Allison Stratton	<p>When I last spoke to the board July 30, I predicted that schools would be able to open and asked that this district be ready to open as soon as the county allowed. Schools were given the green light to open Sep. 1. Many if not most private schools in our area have opened and many area public schools have announced immediate plans to bring their students back to campus. What would the district's reasoning be to continue to limit school to distance learning only? Could it be lack of testing? The county just announced that all school staff will have access to free testing with a 1-2 day turnaround time. Could it be worries about adequate contact tracing? The county has put together a team of nurses and contract tracers dedicated just to schools. Could it be lack of PPE supplies? We've already heard of the purchases the district has made to ensure a supply of masks, sanitizers, etc. to last for months. Could it be reluctance from the administration? From the teacher's union? We parents demand answers.</p> <p>The disease rates in this district continue to remain very low. Since the pandemic began, there have only been 62 cases in RSF, 57 in Solana Beach and 30 in Del Mar representing just 3% of the 43,181 total cases in San Diego County. There have been no deaths and an extremely low hospitalization rate in the under 19 age group. Those statistics alone should be driving the decision to progress with a safe reopening plan.</p> <p>All of us must be flexible in this new world order. I ask you to be flexible for the sake of our children's education and social and emotional well-being. We must start bringing all students who wish to return back to campus safely. We know what to do and how to do it. My next prediction? This virus will be with us in some fashion for the next 1-2 years. Waiting for a vaccine is not a strategy.</p>

Name of Speaker	Written Comment
David Wojtkowski	<p>I'm speaking today to urge the Board of Trustees to set out a plan for opening schools in person to all students that desire it. The current distance learning plan is a huge improvement over last year's plan but it does not and frankly, can not, replace the value of in person learning that our children so desperately need.</p> <p>There are numerous schools beginning to open in person around the county. Del Mar Union and Rancho Santa Fe are two elementary districts that have been in person for a few weeks now. Grossmont Union plans to open their high school soon and Cathedral Catholic, right next to CCA and Torrey Pines, has been running an in-person hybrid program for their high schoolers for two weeks now.</p> <p>I don't understand why there is such an emphasis on keeping distance learning throughout the quarter. I would hope that if deemed safe, the Board seeks a way to open in person at the earliest possible date regardless of when that is. There may be outbreaks - there may be even a closure but that would still be a great improvement to the current system of students spending five hours a day, five days a week in front of a screen in a room by themselves.</p> <p>San Dieguito is an excellent school district and excellent districts really show their true colors in how they handle adversity and this is definitely an incredibly challenging time. I would urge the Board to keep students' education and overall well-being as their top priority and begin a pathway to open our schools to in person learning this quarter.</p> <p>I want to personally thank all of the Board members, staff and faculty for their tireless work over the past year. You all are doing a great service to our community.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Michael Allman	Many other schools in our region are open. Why can't we open as well, and offer parents a choice?
Anonymous	Many other schools in our region are open. Why can't we open as well, and offer parents a choice?
Anonymous	I am making this comment in the hopes that you will not consider opening the school this quarter. There is still so little that we know about COVID-19 and its long-term impacts even on asymptomatic people. Studies have shown that kids do pass the virus frequently and already since schools have open, over six teachers had gotten sick and died. I think the school district has done an adequate job in delivering online education to the students and has worked hard to enable all of the teachers and students to access this type of learning. I do not believe we can safely open schools until we know more about the virus, its transmission, and the long-term impacts of it. Please keep schools closed, maintain the online learning that we have built, and keep our students, teachers, administrators and community safe.
Jenny Richards	<p>I would like to ask the board to place developing a safe comprehensive reopening plan as the districts top priority. It is important that we have a plan in place and implement it as soon as possible so that we are not further delayed if our county moves to the purple tier. Families who want their kids in school under necessary safety guidelines must have the option. This is because all kids do not learn the same. Some students will never learn or be motivated in this format.</p> <p>As much as I respect the effort the teachers are putting in, my student is probably learning 1/10th of what he would be learning at school. I have a student who is easily distracted in class but is brought back by the presence of the teacher, his classmates, required classwork, and group work. This is all currently nonexistent. My son sees students on their game controllers and phones every day during class. There is a reason that teachers ask for students to hand over their phones when they enter the physical classroom....Because if there is an option to be on their phones they will.</p> <p>I would like to make an appeal specifically for our seniors. These kids have put their educations and lives in the hands of our districts for 12 years. They have learned and grown and been cared for. For our district to leave our seniors hanging for their last year before college is unthinkable from a social, emotional, and academic standpoint.</p> <p>In addition, if our district is not taking steps toward safe reopening as soon as possible we may not be ready when the opportunity arises to resume athletics and activities. Students who are athletes or who are involved in other meaningful activities have worked for years towards their goals. To have these opportunities taken from them would be devastating, especially if it was simply because our district did not have clear safe re-opening plans in place as soon as possible.</p>
Jen Charat	<p>This is to say thank you to the administrators and the board for continued transparency, consistent messaging, and for prioritizing science and public health over political factors when considering how to conduct instruction for students. The distance learning model continues to be effective, and while it's not what any of us would choose in normal times (as the COVID-positive rates start to increase in San Diego County), it's the best option we have for delivering instruction to students while keeping them and their teachers and staff safe from exposure to the virus.</p> <p>As planning for the second quarter gets into full swing, please consider all the factors, including fewer daylight hours, colder temperatures, precipitation, and all the other concerns that will drive populations of students and teachers indoors, where the virus is most easily transmitted, for longer periods of time. The very little that we know about this novel virus does include that being indoors among people outside of our family cohorts increases risk of virus acquisition exponentially. Please continue to use science and data as the guide in determining what to commit to, and how to implement it, for learning in the second quarter. Thank you again.</p>
Burke Stratton	My name is Burke Stratton and I am a junior at Torrey Pines. While I appreciate the efforts my teachers have made, school online can't help but be boring. Sitting in my room alone, day after day, staring at my computer screen, is monotonous. I'm feeling more depressed and unmotivated with each passing day. If the special needs students can return to campus, why can't the rest of us? Please help all of the students get back on campus. Thank you.
Courtney Lair	<p>I know you all had the best of intentions when accepting your role on the board, and I trust your intentions are still pure and for the benefit of the children. While I can only imagine how difficult these recent decisions must be for you all, I can assure you the harm of sending our kids to school safely, doesn't come close to the harm you are causing by keeping them home.</p> <p>I implore you all to read Lost Connection by Johann Hari, who identifies seven causes of depression and anxiety, of which millions of children are affected by today. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Disconnection from meaningful work</li> <li>2. Disconnection from other people</li> <li>3. Disconnection from meaningful values</li> <li>4. Disconnection from childhood trauma</li> <li>5. Disconnection from status and respect</li> <li>6. Disconnection from the natural world</li> <li>7. Disconnection from a hopeful future</li> </ol> <p>Are you starting to see where this is going? Not only are the children experiencing some or all of these disconnections, they are missing the physical activity they need to boost their endorphins and serotonin, which help reduce anxiety and depression.</p> <p>Our kids are dumbing down and need to reconnect to the physical world with teachers and students in a safe environment. ANY relief funds should be spent on sustainable on-campus education, like more teachers and tents for reduced class size, PPE, improved sanitation, etc. I trust you will use your power wisely and make good choices for OUR children. I beg you.</p>
Henrietta Nymark-McMahon	I'm an SDA parent and molecular virologist, currently working on COVID-19, flu and HIV. I am deeply concerned that there is no existing plan to ensure a safe return of our students to campus. In contrast, the Solana Beach school district has implemented COVID-19 testing and A/B cohort group learning prior to the return to campus next week. It is imperative that at least these measures be taken as well as mandatory mask wearing. Other measures such as plexiglass at desks and outdoor learning should also be considered. As we now head into the cold/flu season, it will also be imperative that students experiencing any cold symptoms remain home and be tested until a negative COVID-19 test result is obtained. Simply opening up the doors to our schools without any precautions will most certainly ensure the rapid transmission of virus among students, their families and the larger community. For the mental and physical well being of our children and families, we are all rooting for a safe return to school. However, this absolutely cannot and should not take place without mandatory testing, additional safety measures in place and contact tracing to rapidly identify and isolate students that may be infected. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Amanda Davies	I am writing to urge our school board to start working on a plan to re-open our schools safely and in a timely manner. Distance learning was proposed as a temporary solution in response to an emergency. Our county has met the very strict requirements set forth by our governor to re-open our schools. Almost all the other schools in our area have put forth plans to re-open safely. Where is ours? In-person learning is essential to our children's well-being. This extended lockdown of our schools has caused so many hardships on our family. We have 3 children in high school and one in elementary. That means 4 kids online learning, plus my husband working from home. We've had to purchase several MacBooks because the chrome books do not work fast enough in this type of situation. They were lagging and throwing our kids out of their on-line classes. I had to quit my job to oversee all of this homeschooling. This was not an easy or beneficial decision for our family. My children are starting to get headaches, blurred vision, anxiety, and are feeling isolated and disconnected from staring at a screen, locked in their rooms alone all day. This situation is terrible and unacceptable for our children. They need the social interaction with other students and teachers that only in-person learning can provide. It is time to start looking out for the best interest of the students and families that you were elected to serve. The science is very clear. Returning to school is safe and absolutely in the best interest of our children.
Anonymous	Please re-open our schools. My 9th grade son has become very withdrawn and depressed. He needs human social interaction and interaction with his teachers. He has gone from a high performing advanced straight A student to a student getting C's and D's. He sobers numerous times a day and has lost interest in most activities. Today I heard a noise while he was in a class and he was hitting his mouse on the desk trying while sobbing and trying to figure out how to do a CAD assignment. I asked him to take a deep breath and asked him to reach out to his instructor as it was class time. He said his teacher was with his "other" class as he teaches 2 classes during the same period. How is this right and acceptable? The teachers clearly are over worked and have no time to work with their students. I also emailed one of my sons teachers 2 days ago and have yet to hear back from her. Other teachers have been responsive but right now we need all teachers to be responsive. Even 2 days a week back on campus would be something. Please, please fix this. I am trying all I can but am at a loss. I am trying to get my son professional help but everyone is booked solid. The soonest I can get in to see someone is October 12. I just hope it is not to late. This district needs to get these kids back to school.
Anonymous	Our family greatly appreciates the current cautious approach of putting health and safety first. When Dr. Haley indicated at the June board meeting that masks would be optional, we were shocked and incredulous. We are relieved that this approach has been discarded and replaced with vigilance and caution. You hold positions of great responsibility at a time of historic importance. It is heartening to see you act with integrity. Thank you for taking the health of our kids and their families seriously. Thank you for delivering quality distance learning with our excellent teachers. Our kids are thriving under the current model - they are participating safely in distance learning, socializing outdoors at a distance with close friends, and benefiting from the daily routine and sense of security provided by familiar faces in class meetings. We look forward to returning to normal when it is safe and feasible to do so from a public health and logistical perspective. We are realistic and we know that time is not here yet. The headlines regarding school outbreaks and closures speak for themselves. In the meantime, we are extremely grateful to the district for keeping the learning going and providing an interim sense of normalcy while also protecting our students, their families, and the greater community. Thank you.



Name of Speaker	Written Comment
Katrina Young	<p>As a mother of three recent LCC graduates and candidate for the Area 2 Seat of the San Dieguito School Board, I join members of our community in wanting to hear more specific details about our re-opening plan tonight. While there are many opinions and emotions regarding this issue, the one thing we can all agree upon is that absolutely nothing is more important to us than our children. And I would like to help our community work together in their best interest. Especially knowing that we won't always agree on everything, we all need to have access to the most current information and create pathways for open, respectful dialogue. Life with Covid changes daily and we are all charged with making an extraordinarily important decision. With that, I believe in taking measured, steady, but also progressive steps toward in-person learning geared at prioritizing students' academic and emotional needs. In an effort to avoid (or at least greatly minimize) any unnecessary risks to our students, teachers, and staff on campus, I look forward to seeing a timeframe and identified criteria to successfully execute whatever plan we, as a collective district, ultimately choose. Our Special Education and students with specialized needs returned to the classroom this week. I see that as a positive sign that we can, and will, achieve our shared goal of returning back to in-person learning.</p> <p>In the meantime, I would like to make sure there are provisions for students who need or want to continue virtual learning, as well as a strong emphasis on mental health and other support mechanisms to help all members of our SDUHSD community, especially our children, navigate the emotional, physical, and academic hardships they may be experiencing. While it is our current reality, virtual learning is hard on everyone. Acknowledging and empathizing with that, I believe that mental health is a critical aspect of academic success. As such, it should be a major component and consideration of our re-opening plan. Thank you for your careful consideration.</p> <p>Katrina Young, SDUHSD Candidate Area 2</p>
Spencer	<p>This past week has been a fun exercise in representative democracy. We go from the County Board of Supervisors, where we beg them to stop considering acting irrationally and "opening the doors" of San Diego, and now we are here begging of you the same.</p> <p>Instead of acting like a somewhat insulated government body, that makes the sometimes tough unpopular choice, SDUHSD has been know to respond easily to community pressure. While it is nice that the board listens to vocal minorities, it leaves its most vulnerable behind. This was seen in Spring when the board adopted grade "choice" against the recommendation of anyone who actually worked at the schools.</p> <p>Please make the right choice and open the schools when it is safe to do so. It seems far more responsible to continue to invest in robust distance learning, bring those who need more support on to campuses and do right by them, but continue distance learning for the majority. All the options suck, and no parent group will be happy with what choice is made, however, only one option is safe for the community, the students, their families, and their teachers. Please do the right thing. We are tired of fighting this every week at every government body level!</p>
Scott Kahn, PhD	<p>I wrote today to raise my concerns on the current path that SDUHSD is on regarding the safe re-opening of the district for academic instruction. As the current president of the Rancho Santa Fe School District (K-8) I fully understand the challenges around safety, and the hard work required to construct a plan that puts every child's education and overall well being on an equal footing with the physical health safety of all. The district's COVID test rates are low, the science indicates the lack of risk to children up to 20 years old, and the clinical evidence continues to indicate that the social contacts in the school environment are NOT a major transmission vector for the virus. And yet the impacts of social isolation of adolescents and young adults has been demonstrated through elevated cases of mental un wellness - from general depression to severe mental illness that has resulted in self harm. The longer term impacts of such mental un wellness are clinically known to persist well into adulthood.</p> <p>I commonly hear that distance learning is much better than it was during the onset of the pandemic (which I believe that it is), but no one says that distance learning constitutes a "good" education. While I applaud the exceptional efforts of the teachers, would anyone argue that education over Google Meet represents the highest educational delivery possible by our teaching professionals? Our children are lacking reinforcement by their classmates and by the impromptu recognition by their teacher to enhance the learning experience. I sincerely wish that the school district would figure out the puzzle and get the kids back in the classroom. It "IS" possible and it can be consistent with State and County guidelines - it's more simple than returning a man from the moon...</p> <p>Scott D Kahn, PhD</p>
Jane Lea Smith	<p>I understand that Board Members are tasked with making difficult decisions that may not please all stakeholders. However, I am concerned that decisions during these unprecedented times are being made without a complete understanding of needs within our community. As a mom, communications I've received from staff have given no indication that input from students, parents, teachers and site administrators/principals has been considered collectively in developing plans for 2nd quarter learning. I understand that our district is bound by guidance from state and local health authorities; however, if our leadership engages all community members in a collaborative process, allowing voices to hear each other, we can tap into the expertise, creativity, and individual perspectives that are needed to develop a successful plan that has community support. Following a top-down approach unintentionally fosters adversarial relationships between parents and teachers where, in fact, common goals do exist.</p> <p>With good reason, parents, students and teachers are pleading for more information about which options are being considered and which circumstances need to be in place for any of those options to become a reality. We need a clear picture. I strongly urge that you, as our community's representatives, set expectations for collaboration and communication to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A robust structure for intentionally seeking AND incorporating input from students, parents and teachers</li> <li>2) Opportunities for students, parents and teachers to hear each other's perspectives and priorities</li> <li>3) A description of how our district's plan is in line with or differs from that of other districts in our area</li> <li>4) Frequent, detailed status updates to keep our community informed</li> </ol> <p>Thank you, Jane Lea Smith Candidate for SDUHSD Trustee, Area 4</p>
Glenn Collins	<p>I would again like to emphasize that we must follow the science and reopen our schools only when it is safe. Time and again we see schools around the country reopen and then see an outbreak. And currently the county is seeing an increase in cases that may well push us back to the worst tier. How would opening CCA be very different from what we see happening at SDSU right now? We must absolutely err on the side of caution.</p>
Cynthia Rajsbaum	<p>Thank you to the Board and Superintendent for prioritizing student safety and not putting us through various re-openings and closings. And thank you for providing certainty through the first quarter so that the community is not left guessing. We appreciate the great job getting the year started.</p> <p>Most public schools that have opened have had disastrous results and Covid spread. Please give real consideration to holding outdoor classes. No community or student engagement has happened regarding this option. Covid spreads and remains in the air indoors. Outdoor classes are the safest way to reopen (and to stay open) for students, faculty, staff and their respective families. Please include outdoor instruction options in the conversation and set up shaded areas or plan to use existing shade from buildings, solar panels, etc. to teach outdoors. We do not want to be a Covid hotspot and put our communities at risk.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>1. Sending kids back to school right now is insane. I've heard that you have zero science behind your air filtration plan and that you have no clue how to keep these kids safe. Just because you sort of comply and scrape by with a "pass" isn't good enough for our kids' long-term health. We are not into half-***sing our kids' &amp; community's safety. Unless you do it right (your current "safety" plan is miles from that), we should NOT allow anyone we care about in those exceptionally dangerous buildings. We are not a bare minimum community, especially when it comes to the health of our kids. Prove you have made it safe with detailed specs, know what you're talking about when you defend it, or they're not going in to that toxic air, even if it barely passes some ludicrous standard of mediocrity (schools are being allowed to go back to unsafe rooms now--people are dying from it). Distanced learning has some advantages, we'll absolutely take that over incompetent "safety." Board, do NOT let them slide by barely understanding what they're putting our kids in. There's too much at stake. Make them PROVE with a depth of evidence it's actually safe.</p> <p>2. Why won't you put issues of racial equity and justice on the agenda? What are you afraid of? Why do you want to be less than mediocre here, too? 3. We should be a TOP district with a safety plan that is cutting edge and has real evidence to prove our kids will be safe and we should be leading in issues of racial justice, but instead we're ignoring it and letting kids be crushed instead.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am writing to express concern, that a vocal few, will nullify concerns of the community at large. We are expecting the Board to honor its commitment to distance learning through October 28 and potentially beyond. As a parent of a current high schooler, a 2020 Senior, as a former teacher, and someone who lost a job in the wake of the pandemic, I am aware of the hardships. However, my priority is the health and safety of family, community, and protecting our health care system. The local recklessness stuns me. If you haven't been personally touched by COVID it is devastating. I realize that the students are likely to quickly recover, but they will be returning home to multigenerational families. Most colleges are struggling with horrendous outbreaks and keeping the kids quarantined amongst themselves. How is it that we deem it safe to put all these high schoolers together, and then allow them to return home? In the best of times, teachers have to plead for sanitizer and Kleenex on Back to School Night, yet we can expect our schools to be sanitized and safe from a potentially deadly virus? SDA has jam packed halls and an open campus. There is no way the kids will comply with distancing and masking. I spoke to many students who are all in agreement (including many Seniors). They have informed me that they know of infected kids - who proudly post themselves out interacting in the community. The kids are frightened too. They have said they would rather hold off, even an entire semester, in hopes of having a second semester that doesn't start and stop. Perhaps even be able to experience things like graduation and prom (2 milestones my own child was denied). I am also distressed that the organizer of the Reopening Group is running for School Board and is incentivizing people to join the group with a chance to dine at his home or a \$200 donation to a charitable group. This seems unethical to me. I realize the kids are suffering, however, this is also the time to be teaching compassion, resilience, and selflessness.</p>
Marcel Chambers	<p>Please consider opting for a school reopening in our district now. Too much academically, socially and psychologically has already been lost and our students suffer in spite of the best efforts of their teachers. I'm begging you to remember your commitment to our children. For many of them online learning is substandard and putting them at a disadvantage for life. We can do better. We support our teachers and support staff 100% and will do everything in our power to help them return to a safe teaching environment. Please reopen our schools and let us know what our teachers need.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am in full support of your decision to keep the kids out of school for the first quarter and even for the entire first half of the school year. As much as I would love my son to be able to attend school in person, participate in extracurricular activities and be with friends I don't want to take any chances with his health, my families health, or the health of any teachers/administrators. What has been set up to educate the students is working. It may not be perfect but it is working for so many. My son has a 504 and needs accommodations so in person learning would be much better for him. Many things online are not good for him but that being said, still I am not in a rush to send him back to school until we know that the kids can be safe within class and roaming school grounds. At this time, my husband and his father is fighting Glioblastoma brain cancer. He is immunocompromised and can take no chances of catching any other sicknesses while doing chemotherapy. So, for the safety of my family...please don't cave into the bullies of families that want their kids back to school.</p> <p>During the summer groups of students were hanging out together, without masks and standing next to each other without any physical distance- no respect nor regard for the virus. Students retiring to school should have to get Covid tested and prove a negative result and then wear masks at school. Young people carry the virus without symptoms, that is how the virus is spreading colleges. One death due to Covid of a student or a staff member may result in blaming the school district and thus suing the school district as responsible for the death.</p> <p>Families support your current position and decision. Don't let what happened last spring with the change of pass/no pass to letter grades be what you do this Fall quarter. Don't cave in to the bullies and demands of people. Stand your ground knowing that you are speaking for the families that didn't know to send you a letter.</p>

Name of Speaker	Written Comment
Heather Dugdale	I'm curious as to how the School Board and Superintendent have been gathering community feedback and input about how quarter one distance learning is going. As you begin planning for quarter two, what has been the feedback and input from others? It has been 6 weeks since the pre-opening parent focus group and I've seen nothing requesting feedback on the implementation of the current plan. Issues like back to school night or distance 504 plans or college planning for juniors and seniors. Do you know how any of that has gone and what adjustments need to be made should we continue to have to be distance learning into the second quarter. How are students feeling about their learning environment, and academic and emotional support? Are you just hearing from the loudest and most persistent? What about the students wanting to be heard on racial inequality or what about increased suicide prevention efforts in light of recent tragedies? Distance learning is important, but it's not the only issue facing our kids and I see a concerning lack of collaborative leadership and vision in guiding our District not just through this pandemic, but forward generally.
<b>Item #10b - CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL/ADOPTION OF 2020-2021 LEARNING CONTINUITY AND ATTENDANCE PLAN</b>	
Molly Schneider	Thank you for your dedication to prioritizing the health and well-being of our students and staff. Your continued commitment to the best possible learning environment for all of our students is much appreciated. We have seen great strides in virtual learning and large efforts being made to connect with students. The difference is commendable. Please continue to be guided by science and best practices. Your continued voice in commitment to an education plan that will best ensure public health for staff and students is indeed challenging; As we heard from Dr. Haley at the last meeting, following all of the state guidelines and working on best ways to eventually be on campus is a much bigger undertaking than it may seem. Reopening for in person learning requires real investment and thought about how we keep everyone safe. Enhancing physical infrastructure (ventilation, etc.) and ensuring there is enough staff to support different learning models are just a few of the long list of factors beyond monitoring numbers. Please continue to do your thoughtful work leaving politics and clamoring for change on the sidelines. Your clear messaging is appreciated. The student's minds are at ease when they know what to expect. Please continue to model responsible decision making with everyone's best interest at heart, even if this means we cannot be physically together until changes in conditions, infrastructure and transmission occur.
<b>Item #10d - CONSIDERATION OF CERTIFICATION OF THE 2019-20 UNAUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURES</b>	
Marianne Grosner	I was wondering if the board or Ms. Douglas could provide some specific examples on what types of expenses were incurred to increase the Professional/Consulting Services and Operating Expenditures from \$738,000 to \$2,945,390.09? This is listed on page 226 of the board packet. Thank you.
<b>Item #10e - CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF NEW &amp; REVISED BOARD POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS</b>	
Kristin Fay	This agenda item is wonderful in concept, but words and actions are different. This is what the youth have been trying to meet with you about. In order to make this item/goals possible the District needs to work with students current/former and community members of color, not just advisors/consultants. Many Districts have hired consultants that are not people of color to help lead these initiatives (ex: EUSD). I support this item, but if the District is serious about this and not just putting words out there, then you need to meet with the students requesting and wanting to work with you. Students through E4E, CCA's Raven's Club and the District wide club Diversify Our Narrative. On an additional note, per Ed. Code 35145.5, the Education Code requires districts to honor public requests to agendize items where the items "directly relate to school district business." The students have been requesting an agenda item all Summer that allows them to share their experiences with racism in their district schools on record. Please provide an agenda item for them to do so.
Sarah	This agenda item is wonderful in concept, but words and actions are different. This is what the youth have been trying to meet with you about. In order to make this item/goals possible the District needs to work with students current/former and community members of color, not just advisors/consultants. Many Districts have hired consultants that are not people of color to help lead these initiatives (ex: EUSD). I support this item, but if the District is serious about this and not just putting words out there, then you need to meet with the students requesting and wanting to work with you. Students through E4E, CCA's Raven's Club and the District wide club Diversify Our Narrative. On an additional note, per Ed. Code 35145.5, the Education Code requires districts to honor public requests to agendize items where the items "directly relate to school district business." The students have been requesting an agenda item all Summer that allows them to share their experiences with racism in their district schools on record. Please provide an agenda item for them to do so.
Anonymous	I appreciate that the district is addressing social and racial equity concerns, but I strongly feel the board should meet with BIPOC students who are taking the lead on these issues. It is my understanding that their requests to address and meet with the board have been denied or ignored, while outside advisors have been hired to consult. The voices and experiences of BIPOC students and community members must be heard, as decisions cannot and should not be made without their input.
Mali woods	My name is Mali Woods, I am One of the co founders of Encinitas4equality. I have Sent multiple emails to the board and joined the youth of sdusd at the protest to demand our voices be heard about this issue. While i appreciate the agenda item, I am Curious who these policies have been discussed with, as our youth have yet to have an opportunity to sit down with the board and superintendent which we have requested. With all due respect, you are a leadership body of white adults who aren't experiencing what our diverse students and parents are experiencing. While this may be a small step in the right direction, you are yet to show that you plan to work in partnership with the group leading on diversity in our community and creating a seat at the table for our Black and brown voices. This seems like checking of a box, please respond to our calls for a meeting with our E4E leadership and youth group and set up a meeting to dialogue about our proposals. Our students and families deserve better.
Anonymous	Youth from E4E have been directly trying to speak with the board and have been shut down. Next steps need to include allocated time to listen to youth groups and student experience to fully understand how to move forward in a sustainably equitable manner.
Julie Hinze	As a member of Encinitas4equality, you should be aware there are youth voices wanting you to know about instances of racism currently going on in your High School District. These are former students of mine that I feel you are able to add them to your agenda and seek that you take their proposals seriously. They are strong student leaders expressing a change that will improve the education for all your 13,000 students.
Jody White	While attempting to read the proposal for agenda item 10e, I could not get past measure #1. It is suggested that the Board will assess the students needs based on data. Why wouldn't you assess their needs by listening to their voices. It is very disheartening that the Board has disregarded the multiple attempts and requests of the students to speak directly to the Board. Certainly you would get a better indication of the steps that need to be taken by hearing their experiences first hand rather than looking at data. Data does not tell you what happens on campus. As educators you are going about this process completely backwards. Per Ed. Code 35145.5, the Education Code requires districts to honor public requests to agendize items where the items "directly relate to school district business." It is very clear that you are not abiding by this code. I strongly suggest you agree to meet with your fellow students.
Rachel de la Vega	Under Board Policy - Equity, Item number 5 regards "Adopting curriculum and instructional materials that accurately reflect the diversity among student groups." Are you allowing parents to review and provide input on this curriculum and materials before it is taught? By "accurately reflect," do you mean to include only that material that correlates to groups at a particular school; potentially omitting others? To provide true equity and diversity in your policy, why or why not are you including religious/faith diversity or political diversity in your curriculum and instructional materials. Also, are you using "critical race theory" to guide choice of materials and curriculum? I appreciate that the district is responding to issues happening in our country; however the district must be responsive to parents and district residents regarding content being taught to our children. Please answer this during the meeting.
<b>Item #10g - FACILITIES UPDATE</b>	
wendy gumb	will address the board live