

NAME	Comment
Item #2 - CLOSED SESSION	
Anonymous	<p>"WHEREAS, the District as yet does not offer in-person instruction for all of its general education population..."</p> <p>Quoted from Mr. Allman's "reopening plan". Can't look at Mrs. Mossey's version, because you have not put it in writing to the public, even though you 'passed' it one week ago.</p> <p>You legally can't open in the purple tier. Game over.</p> <p>Mrs. Young and Mrs. Gibson, we appreciate your service and dedication to our community and all stakeholders.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am a parent of 2 students in this district as well as I am a teacher in an elementary school.</p> <p>I feel opening up the school at this time is very negligent. To endanger the health of our teachers and staff by opening the schools at this time - ESPECIALLY as the vaccine is so near does not make any sense.</p> <p>The education standards have always been very high in our district and now with the pandemic they have been lowered. So here you are lowering them even further. Good teachers are leaving. The academic will suffer. Do you know how difficult it is to understand a person wearing a mask through Goggle Meets? And the students in class will not fair any better.</p> <p>I understand that many students need more socialization for their mental health. But this is not the way to go about helping them. How many other options have you tried?</p> <p>Please trust educators to make decisions about education.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am a district alumni and I can't believe the board would vote to return students to campus right now. I'm in college and all of my friends and I are distance learning, not meeting new people, not going to parties, not having our college sports, and we are actually paying money to have this experience. And WE UNDERSTAND WHY -- IT IS NOT SAFE TO BE IN CLASSROOMS. There is no way that all the high school students will comply with safety rules and wear their masks correctly. Everyone wants things to be normal -- people need to wake up and understand that it's not, and it's not just for this little community -- it's affecting the whole world! Even though people think the death rate is low, all it takes is for one person you know to die for you to change your mind. My classmate's brother died from COVID a few months ago, and it changed everything for her and helped all of us understand how little we understand about this sickness and how much our actions affect everyone. How sad that the board doesn't understand that and that our teachers have to sue to teach them what's right.</p>
Adam Fischer	<p>The signs are abundantly clear that the district is not able to reopen legally on January 4 and it should not waste its resources fighting that. Furthermore, under the government's Tort Claims Act, if the district fails to follow its mandatory duty to abide by the applicable laws, then it is no longer shielded from liability and could end up having to pay significant money for any claims that would arise from being open unlawfully. Even if there isn't a ruling before Jan 4 preventing reopening, given the uncertainty around litigation, it would be prudent to delay reopening as otherwise the district would be proceeding with an opening that would later be found to be unlawful.</p> <p>As one piece of evidence that opening Jan 4 is illegal, the California Department of Public Health rules specifically state in the Schools FAQ that a school is only considered "open" if it is operating in a manner beyond small cohorts. Also, schools that are not "open" cannot reopen unless the county has been out of the purple tier for 14 days. SDUHSD schools have only been operating with small groups and so they are definitely NOT open under state law and cannot legally reopen until the county has been out of the purple tier for 14 days.</p> <p>By its own admission, SDUHSD stated in the Dec 15 Expanded School Opening resolution that "the District is capable of safely returning to partial and ultimately full in-person instruction." By stating it could return to in-person instruction, SDUHSD admits it has not yet opened for in-person instruction.</p> <p>The district can claim they are waiting for San Diego County to issue updated guidance on this matter, however that won't change the state rules that the district would be directly violating if it opens schools before the county has been out of the purple tier for 14 days. The SDCOE even sent an email on Dec 17 to Superintendent Haley stating that regardless of what the county does or doesn't say, school leaders "are accountable to the standard set by the state."</p>

NAME	Comment
Akiko Morgan	<p>I have two children in the district. One of them has Attention Deficit Disorder and has a 504 plan. The Distant Learning model has not worked for them. My daughter is usually social and engaging, yet she reports having considerable anxiety when she has to speak on Google Classroom. My son has a hard time staying focused sitting in front of a monitor. His 504 plan includes special seating arrangements so that he is close to instruction. This cannot happen virtually. He had straight As in 7th grade. Now his grades are going down.</p> <p>In my opinion, the right time to re-open schools was at the beginning of the school year. If my children had been back in school, and if we were now being told that we needed to stay home during the surge, I would be 100% supportive of that. But their goal posts keep getting moved further and further away. Now I hear the Teacher's Union has filed a lawsuit regarding the definition of what is considered "open". The schools have been open for some students since the beginning of the school year. When will this end? Children need to be back in school.</p>
Anonymous	<p>This community DEMANDS that this Board of Trustees publicly censure Michael Allman for his disregard for the students in this district. As a Board you MUST demand he resign today. His half-hearted, forced "apology" is not accepted by this community. The amount of faith and trust we have in him is "very near zero".</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am a concerned citizen and parent of a student at San Dieguito Union High School District. I was shocked and dismayed to learn that the San Dieguito Union High School District is planning to continue reopening on January 4th. This clearly goes against state guidance and all considerations for the health of our community. It is incomprehensible that SDUHSD would reopen while our community is in the purple tier, with no available space in ICU hospital beds, and under a reopening plan that does not meet the standard set by UCSD's plan for the safe reopening of schools.</p> <p>In consideration of the health and safety of students, families, teachers, staff, and our entire community, I implore you to reconsider this decision and delay reopening until it can be done in a safe manner.</p>
Alison Tickle	<p>Please listen to science and to reason. Litigation is extremely expensive, and the last thing we need to be spending money on a lawsuit. You voted to raise sub pay, but that will not solve the problem. There are not enough subs, nor will there be even if we advertise for them. Also, the majority of the subs in the subpool that last few years are not capable of following a subplan or using simple technology. We, the teachers, are qualified and knowledgeable. Why will you not listen to reason and cooperate? Why push through voting late at night to accomplish an agenda that may be supported by a handful of doctors chosen by you, when scientists and epidemiologists do not support returning to school right now. You ignored Bryan Marcus' presentation and disregarded Mark Miller's advice, you're ignoring teachers, you also ignored the students who spoke at the meeting last week. We--the students and the teachers--are the ones with boots on the ground--who will be in classrooms. Why are our voices being ignored? Dr. Kim Prather of UCSD does not support opening our schools right now based on the numbers in San Diego. The airports were very busy today with holiday travel. Like Cassie Miller of SDA stated, that will put students and teachers back in classrooms with inadequate filtration systems--they need to be at least MERV-13--with people who have violated the stay-at-home order. Listen to reason, listen to science, and listen to the law. Do not throw money that could be used to procure necessary safeguards and to be able to pay teachers to continue to work from home when they or their family members must remain at home to quarantine or because a return to distance learning is required due positive cases. As some of the student protesters stated last week, you cannot support students without supporting teachers.</p>
Allie Cooper	<p>We moved to the area less than two years ago and I heard great things about the school system. Many people told me LCC and Diegueño were wonderful schools with great teachers. Last year our experience was ok and I was hopeful that Things would be even better in the future. I could not have been more wrong. The school district has let me and my family down by not giving the children who aren't doing well in distance-learning any choice. It has been unbelievable how selfish the administration and teachers are being by using this terrible time as a bargaining tool for the unions. Our son was miserable and distance-learning until I pulled him and put him at a charter school in the area so that he could attend part time in person Learning. He has done so much better and has willingly followed all safety protocols and he finally feels like his teachers are on his side now that he no longer attends Diegueño. If things do not drastically change I will not be enrolling him at LCC next year. Nor will I be bringing my other two children there when the time comes.</p>
Allison Carter	<p>We are in favor of opening all schools as soon as possible for students to attend 5 days a week if they choose to. Those who do not feel safe or are at high risk, could still remain in a distance learning format. Our LCC freshman has been looking forward to any type of return since we were first told they could go back in November. Please don't keep delaying their return to social and academic life because of the teachers' union. An in-person education is their right, it is essential, and teachers are essential workers. I say this as a teacher and a union member myself. The CDC, the American Pediatricians, Anthony Fauci, most doctors, and every parent I know agree that students should be in school. Schools are not the source of outbreaks, and many private schools in our area have been operating since August without issue. At this point it is cruel and selfish to keep kids isolated and in fear over an illness that they recover from at a rate of 99.997%. They are at far greater risk, as we reach 9 months with no school, sports, or social activities, of depression and suicide. Thank you for putting our children first- they are the future.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>I am a parent in the District, I am also a teacher in another school district and I am writing to you to please not open on January 4th. My district decided to open in October and because of it I got Covid and so did everyone in my family. While we think that we are ok now we went through a horrible 3 weeks experience. In my classroom there were only 7 students and 3 + myself got Covid. While I understand in the classroom instruction is more ideal than online, it is unthinkable that in the classroom instruction under covid is the same as prior to covid. From my 3 months experience the students preferred on-line instruction that in classroom instruction under Covid.</p> <p>After those 3 months at my school instead of adding more people present in the classroom, it did quite the opposite. Now I have a classroom with 1 student, another with 2 students and out of my 5 classes, the biggest one has 7 students. Please do not make the same mistake and DO NOT OPEN UNTIL IT IS SAFE TO DO SO. Thank you</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am deeply concerned about the plan to open schools -whether 1 day a week or 5 - while San Diego is in Purple Tier. This seems illegal given that we are not currently "open" to the public but only to a small number of students. Some parents and board members have voiced concerns about students' mental health - but that will be worse if students discover that they have transmitted COVID to loved ones or their teachers, and need to be in mourning for dear ones, even if they have not become symptomatic themselves. The current plan, of having students indoors together in spaces where they simply cannot distance enough, even with masks, is certain to increase infections in our community, and the only question is by what percentage. In addition to waiting until we are out of Purple Tier, I urge you to wait until teachers can get vaccinated, so we are not endangering our district's cherished human resources. IF you are unwilling to wait, I strongly urge that at least you permit teachers to teleteach if they prefer - as they have been - longer than the end of Q2, and to do so even if they fear for a family member with underlying conditions rather than themselves. WE DO NOT WANT TO LOSE OUR TEACHERS, whether we are in person or remaining in distance learning. Teaching a hybrid class to onsite learners & remote learners is extremely challenging, and we want to ABSOLUTELY MINIMIZE HOW MANY SUBS WE WILL NEED. Please help us with plans to retain our highly qualified teachers! Let us wait until we are not in Purple and/or allow teachers to choose to teach from home for their safety and our children's.</p>
Amber La-Haise	<p>There has been a glimmer of hope in our students eyes over the past few days. The light is fading again with the worry the schools will go back on opening. These teachers claim fear or health issues in order to stay home. These same teachers are out shopping, visiting family and friends, traveling, and getting paid their full salaries.</p> <p>This district is failing our families and students. Please stand up to the union and those that are finding every loophole they can. Continue with opening our schools. Those families that choose to can stay in DL but let those that need to be in person have a choice as well.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am shocked to learn from the dashboard that Torrey Pines high school is already at 5.8% number of cases given the tiny size of the population which has currently been welcomed onto campus. Given that schools are recommended to close down at the 5% mark, I am shocked to find that Torrey Pines is still open and in fact is planning to open to accept the entire student body starting in January. Tell me this is not the case?! Tell me I am reading something wrong please.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Your role as a board is to give our students the best educational experience possible, as someone who has their masters and EdD in education, I know the number one way to insure this is to keep our students with their well qualified, excellent teachers. If my four children have subs, because teachers go out on leave or classes shut down to quarantine, students will not have access to the education they deserve. I do not want you to waste money on lawsuits or your time discussing returning to school in the height of this global pandemic. Your medical experts were not infectious disease experts, and even so they did not say that you should open schools to all students in a little over a month. You approved a plan that does not follow logic or educational research. Please let my children and all SDUHSD students continue to have the stability and consistency of their teachers and the well thought out educational experience they have created.</p>

NAME	Comment
Amy Masuda	<p>I am a community member, parent of district student, and a district teacher. We are all suffering from the effects of the pandemic and having a hard time with uncertainty, sacrifice, and weighing risks in decisions we all make on a daily basis. But your decisions as board members are not supposed to be based on your personal beliefs or in response to a vocal minority. You are entrusted with making decisions for the good of the entire community -- those who elected you and those who did not. Whether or not you personally want to believe some medical experts over others; whether or not you personally want to adhere to the county and state health mandates, or even recommendations; and whether or not you would have your own children attend school on campus or from home should not dictate your vote as a board member. Consider what is best for all the 13,000+ students' education as a whole. Consider what students and parents are telling you. Consider what district educational leaders (asst. superintendents, principals, etc.) are saying to you. Lastly treat teachers as the professionals we are. We are on the same team as you, parents, and students and always work our hardest to do what is best for our students. We are all on the same side. Students first. During distance learning or not we care about all our students, struggling students or not. During distance learning or not teachers lose sleep over these students. Teachers shed tears over these students. Teachers carry the weight of these students' failures and success. Please listen to district educational leaders when deciding how and when to return more students to campus. Trust their expertise. If just one teacher needs a substitute it could negatively impact the education of potentially over 120-175 students for weeks. Yes, of course, like you, we all care about those students struggling at home, but we also need to protect what is best for all the others. Please do not ever forget about them. Please make decisions based on what is best for all students and stakeholders.</p>
Andie Gately	<p>Hi, my name is Andie Gately and I am a Junior at CCA. I would like to offer a student's perspective on the recent lawsuit filed against the Board. Teachers are the backbone of this district. We are one of the top districts in the state, and one of our schools is the top public school in all of California. Yes, our students are passionate and hardworking. But a great student is nothing without a teacher who believes in them; who will see them through the hard times and cheer them on through the good times. The disrespect the Board has shown to some of the best teachers in the state is appalling. Our teachers had to file suit against the Board as a last resort. They will not sit back and allow the Board to put their lives and the lives of their children, spouses, parents, and students at risk. I am incredibly proud of my teachers. They have taught their students to stand up for what is right, and that is what we are doing. The Board's plan to reopen is not only unsafe but also illegal. The Board has shown the utmost disrespect to the teachers of this district and has completely ignored safety guidelines. Teacher voices matter. Student voices matter. With this suit, the teachers state their needs loud and clear. To ignore them would be to cast basic human decency aside. We will protest, we will petition, and we will continue to educate others until you can no longer ignore us. Value our voices like you claim to. Listen to the people you represent. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Please reconsider the opening date. Our county and state are facing alarming COVID numbers, every expert expects cases to continue to increase with the holidays. Please ask the district staff for clear evidence of being open (ie AB or ABCD model in place where teachers were actively and on a schedule instructed in person) or evidence of attendance records of in-person instruction occurring in the red tier. The lack of this evidence is what will be presented in lawsuits. Please acknowledge that opening 1 day a week isn't going to be some magic cure for missing social interaction, if anything you are giving students false hope as there will be no fostering of social interaction. The "plan" to expand re-opening to 5 days week at Q3 is dangerous and reckless. Stop comparing us to other states and private schools, none of those schools start with 40 students in a classroom so their models don't work for us. With no subs, classes groups together and roaming students on campus contact tracing can not be established and county health will close the school(s). Look around, neighboring districts that are already legally open and are pausing in person instruction. If we truly are the best district, then act like it, make the tough decisions to keep our students and teachers safe. Stop voting for hope and wishes and vote for a plan that isn't doomed to fail. This district has top rated schools because it took care of teachers so they could take care of the students, this is how we best support our students.</p>
Anonymous	<p>The fact that this is to the point of litigation is ridiculous. We are in the middle of a massive covid surge, why on earth would schools reopen right now? Please reopen gradually if cases are down 1 day a week the end of January like other schools and as originally voted on. Even private schools are doing this after the holidays since there will surely be a big surge. Please put egos aside and do what is right for teachers, students and community. It's been a grueling 9 months, surely we can hold out several more weeks and do it right. Opening 5 days a week at the end of January makes zero sense. It is irresponsible and negligent.</p>

NAME	Comment
Andrew Bridges	<p>Dear members of the board.</p> <p>I am writing to express my very real concerns over your blatant disregard for the safety of our children, their educators and families. This prompts me to inquire as to how many of the board actually have students who will be affected by your decisions as no parent of high school students I know of seems to prioritize returning the kids and teachers to school over their health?</p> <p>To proceed with legal action will likely prove incredibly expensive (is this a reflection of Mr. Allman's insistence on lawyers being present at school board meetings? It is a shame he doesn't show the same persistence when it comes to faculty, parents or the children whose opinions he values so little) and will use money that could be spent improving the safety measures in our schools. By violating the health code and safety standards, your negligence is potentially opening our school district up to multiple lawsuits that will likely cost even more money. The small number of students who have been on our campuses do not equate to schools being open. We can't expand opening when we haven't been truly open in the first place.</p> <p>I admonish you to please follow the lead of every other district that has been wise enough to make this distinction and have either delayed opening or suspended current in-person classes. Please follow the lead of our wiser neighbors and delay reopening at least until we are out of the Purple Tier as required by the California Department of Public Health.</p> <p>And lastly, if you are so confident of this being the 'popular choice, why are you holding closed meetings? Surely, if you are serious about promoting the best interests of the children and professionals under your care, you would value their input?</p>
Andrew Gao	<p>Hello, my name is Andrew and I am a junior at Canyon Crest Academy. As a concerned SDUHSD student, I wish to speak on the litigation. I strongly urge the board to seriously consider the many voices of students, parents, and teachers.</p> <p>The California Department of Public Health mandates that a school may currently only reopen if it has already opened before we entered the Purple Tier. SDUHSD claims that our schools qualify under these guidelines because there was onsite activity prior to entering the purple tier. For example, some teachers were on campus and there were in person opportunities for at-risk students, special needs students, and others. This does not count as being open according to Department of Public Health guidelines since on campus learning was only extended to specific groups of students to facilitate distance learning.</p> <p>I hope the board will conserve district resources and taxpayer money, instead of wastefully paying for dead-end legal action. Taxpayer money could instead be used to improve SDUHSD covid-19 safety protocols such as screening and ventilation. Why spend thousands of dollars on lawyers instead of making our schools safe? Dr. Kim Prather PhD, advisor to Dr. Fauci and aerosol expert, has repeatedly stated that the SDUHSD reopening plan is unsafe and dangerous.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic is worse than ever and it is not the time to reopen. Save taxpayer money for improving school safety so that when we do eventually open, we can do so safely.</p> <p>I ask you to consider the tireless contributions and hard work that teachers have made to make our district what it is today. I ask you to consider the 2,400 petition signatures asking for changes in the reopening plan. I ask you to consider the advice of experts like Dr. Prather and epidemiologists, who have pointed out countless flaws in COVID-19 safety measures. I ask you to consider the voices of the many students protesting both outside and from home. We care and we matter.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anjali Gupta	<p>I am the mother of two HS students in the District.</p> <p>SITUATION: -The SDUHSD has been in distance-learning mode since March 13, 2020 due to the highly contagious and rapidly spreading coronavirus disease. -The School Board voted to return to in-person teaching (mandatory) and learning (choice) on January 4, 2021.</p> <p>COMPLICATION: -Since Thanksgiving, COVID-related hospitalizations and deaths have spiked across CA and in San Diego County. -CA is under a stay-at-home order and SD County is in the "purple tier" -- highest risk level. -Asymptomatic spread is a major problem. There are no clear protocols established to prevent spread of the disease between students who do return to in-person learning. -While you are trying to solve one problem -- that of some students being unable to learn from home, or some students experiencing mental health issues -- you are creating many more problems due to the hastiness of your decision making.</p> <p>RESOLUTION: -Establish robust safety procedures: What procedures have you considered to be implemented for a safe return, not just a fast return? How will you prevent asymptomatic spread into the community at large? -Rather than engaging in a lawsuit that will cost thousands of tax dollars, why not take a step back and repurpose those funds to buy more Chromebooks and other equipment that our children so desperately need for learning effectively? Why not spend the money buying personal protective equipment for every student and teacher? Why not spend the money on our own students and not on lawyers? -Wait just three months. By Spring Break, the vaccines will be more widely available. Protect our students, teachers, and community, and also help prevent another shutdown of the economy.</p> <p>I ask you to expand your circle of concern and consider the community as a whole. Your decisions have widespread consequences. The safety of our schools extends beyond our students and teachers to include everyone who comes in contact with them. I am with you in that I want our schools to reopen, but I want them to reopen safely.</p>

NAME	Comment
Ann Cerny	<p>You have two options: You can dig in your heels, direct lawyers to find vague language in state orders to ram through this unsafe, unsustainable, chaos-inducing policy; Or, You can take a pause, reflect and do the right thing. It's ok to regroup.</p> <p>Reflect on our District "family"—SDFA, who many of you too readily vilify, has NEVER had to sue the district. They've always worked out differences because it was best for students. Resorting to this extreme measure points to the merits of our arguments.</p> <p>Reflect on Fiscal Responsibility—Even if delusions & arrogance still tell you this policy is sound, spending taxpayer resources on a lawsuit just because you refuse to collaborate with teachers is a dereliction of your responsibilities as leaders. Will "transparency" result in a public record of money spent on this lawsuit?</p> <p>Reflect on Academics—While this plan may have been a well-meaning effort to get students back in school, the result WILL BE academic chaos. You may be frustrated with that result. But the result is real. It's time to accept it.</p> <p>Reflect on your Motivations—Are you afraid of going back on your campaign promises? Afraid of being seen as "giving in"? Those are not good reasons to thrust us into this chaos. Your job as a leader is to teach and inform the public on why you make the difficult decisions. Do the right thing – then communicate it with a voice of unity and reason.</p> <p>Reflect on our Role in the Community— We are not an organization in isolation. What would Scripps Encinitas ICU doctors and nurses say about your plan? What do our City Councils say as our local business are waiting to get numbers more under control? What sort of community partner are we?</p> <p>You have two options: How much time will you spend digging in, finding legal loopholes, parsing language? Or, might you reflect, pause & regroup: This is hard. Paths that may have looked right months ago have ended up in dark forests of gnarled vines. Return to the crossroads to take another path. If you do so with a true heart, people will understand and follow.</p>
Anonymous	I support continued distance learning as I feel it is working well in the circumstances. It is the safest way to deliver an education and support services at this time.
Anonymous	To the Board, respectfully, please continue on the correct course of safely opening the schools to in person instruction. Over 13,000 children are relying on you to put their education and social emotional needs first. If local private schools and NYC public schools can open safely, we can safely reopen. I respect the safety concerns of teachers, administrators and staff but please be on the right side of history in prioritizing our children. Thank you for your consideration.
Anonymous	Distance learning is a failed endeavor. All of the data shows that it is safe for kids to be back in school and rates of transmission of Covid to teachers is less than in the surrounding communities. Real harm is being done to children through this forced social isolation. Please let our kids go back to school, full time, safely and as soon as possible.
Anonymous	Please fight this lawsuit as much as humanly possible. Our childrens' well-being is at stake. My boys will be devastated if they cannot return to campus. Distance learning has been harmful to both of my children and we are in full support of SDUHSD's plan to reopen.
Anonymous	As a long time teacher in this district, I am saddened that a lawsuit appears to be the only way to get the attention of the district and demonstrate how seriously concerned so many teachers are with the school reopening. Teachers and administrators have been great partners in the past, but now many teachers feel that our safety and our concerns are pushed aside for a political agenda. Teachers want to teach and teachers are teaching. We all want what is best for our students. Teachers want to teach their students in-person in their classrooms when it is safe to do so. It is just not safe right now. Opening schools puts the entire community at risk. Our schools have not been open. They have only had small cohorts and do not meet the conditions for opening allowed in the Purple Tier. With vaccinations and prudent behavior, hopefully soon numbers will improve and we can all return to school when it is safe.
Anonymous	Our children desperately need to be back in school. Distance learning is not working for everyone (very few in fact). Choice is the only equitable way to move forward. Our children were excited when the board voted to have them return. Then they regressed when they heard about the union filing a lawsuit. It is hard to explain to our children why the union would do this when the science says they should be back in school. The suit has no merits and even my children were able to explain that to me. Please move judiciously to have the suit dismissed. Our children cannot afford any more disappointment in what has already been a tragic year.

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>Dr. Haley and Trustees, Please do not reopen the schools at this time.</p> <p>You MUST factor in the community spread. I am really mystified that we repeatedly hear the claim that Covid is not transmitted in schools. Of course it can be! The level of community spread should be a key factor in determining whether to open the schools, as it is more likely to invade the schools and spread back to the community. That is why schools considering opening (like SDUHSD and Pacific Ridge School, for example, are testing within their communities).</p> <p>It is no wonder that teachers are nervous. Even the parent/doctors acknowledged that many students are socializing widely without following these health order protocols. Bear in mind, this is not all students. But the students (and parents) who do not follow the health orders because they choose to either ignore or disbelieve that we are in a pandemic are harming those that do. Please consider ALL students, INCLUDING those who are waking up, turning their camera on, and doing what their teachers ask of them. They should not be penalized by doing the right thing (for example, by losing their qualified AP teachers to a less qualified sub.</p> <p>I believe the Teacher's injunction has merit and I hope that you try very hard to settle without wasting school resources. There is still much work to be done to get a solid, safe plan for reopening. I would like us to get there, but I also really want to see CIF be comfortable enough to allow for a return to sports. Please listen to the health experts and consult widely recognized public health experts, not just parents who are child doctors.</p> <p>We ALL want to reopen. But not at the expense of public health. Instead, please host the SAT/ACT!!!! Our juniors need this! Respond to complaints about teachers. Do outreach to students who are struggling. Get our schools ready for reopening (traffic patterns, rain policy, mask supervising training, on campus testing, concurrent teaching training).</p> <p>Don't waste money fighting within our community. TALK TO EACH OTHER.</p>
Anonymous	<p>New cases of Covid 19 are soaring right now. Scripps Encinitas ICU bed rate is at 125%. 54 out of 58 counties in California have transitioned from purple tier to the red tier. This is not the time to further overwhelm our public health system. We are on the cusp of yet another significant spike in Covid 19 numbers with the fast approaching Christmas holiday(Dr. Anthony Fauci). We saw our most dramatic increase nationwide after the Thanksgiving holiday. SDUHSD's plans fall short of expert recommendations in physical distancing, ventilation, filtration and testing. Please revisit this ill advised decision to open until the county of San Diego has been in the purple tier for at least 2 weeks. Protect our teachers, our kids and the dedicated medical professionals county wide. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>The SDFA is right - the reopening plan violates both the spirit and the letter of public health guidelines. There is a reason many other districts in the county are moving away from in-person back to distance learning. With daily COVID cases continuing to reach frightening new highs, please exercise common sense and halt reopening until San Diego has re-entered the Red tier and we have a viable and sustainable plan in place to keep students and teachers safe.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am both an SDUHSD parent and employee. This lawsuit is based on the assertion that it is unlawful for the school district to move forward with its reopening plan because the California Department of Public Health forbids a school from expanding reopening in the purple tier unless the school had already started to bring its general student population back for in-person instruction. I speak from first-hand knowledge when I state that San Dieguito Academy has had Seaside special education students on campus since mid-September. This group has never exceeded 10 students and averages 4 students per day. Since early October, we have invited students to what we are calling the Learning Hub. Students accessing the Learning Hub include some English Learners, Special Education students, and students experiencing housing insecurity. We have two distinct groups of students attending the Learning Hub on alternating days. Those groups average between 15 & 20 students. What is especially important to note is that the students in the Seaside program and in the Learning Hub are NOT receiving direct instruction from their classroom teachers. They are engaging in distance learning through digital platforms, just like all other students. The only difference is the geographical location from which they are accessing their online education. We describe what's happening on SDA's campus as supervised distance learning. What is happening at SDA does not meet the standards of an open school and we cannot reopen if we've never been open. Therefore, the lawsuit has merit. Please save the district time and money and do not engage in further litigation. More importantly, protect the safety of those in your care, the SDUHSD students and staff members. All indicators suggest that the vaccine will be available to educators by the 4th quarter. Do the responsible thing and slow down the opening of our schools.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>As a parent who was in favor of school reopening I am shocked by the boards refusal to acknowledge conditions have changed in our communities. Even schools that had already opened are now returning to online learning. We are in purple tier in a surge with zero ICU capacity.</p> <p>We need to preserve our quality of education. Our district's incredible achievements depend on qualified teachers teaching difficult subjects. AP courses and exams are college level. If we are bringing students on campus all teachers should stay remote to protect our district keeping a robust teaching pool. Teachers having to quarantine should be able to still teach remotely while they quarantine if they are not ill.</p> <p>Stop creating legal expenses. Not only is the teachers union seeking legal action, but the district is violating state orders and not following the standard of care (the districts around us all postponing in person teaching for a minimum of two weeks to weed out new cases from the holidays or have cancelled immediate reopening plans). The board members are also subjecting themselves to personal liability due to violations of the business judgment rule. The stress on these kids of losing their teachers at this point in the semester is far greater than the stress of staying online.</p> <p>And please don't say that is why everyone gets a choice. You are forcing teachers to leave, increased community spread, increased teachers that will be out due to illness, increased use of unqualified substitutes, and a lack of equity in teaching students. The impacted students teachers and community members do not have a choice under this reckless plan. Prepare to open following best practices when we are out of the purple tier. Teachers are next in line to be vaccinated which will also make reopening safer for them, their families and our communities if you do this safely.</p>
Anonymous	<p>We need to keep moving forward with our re opening plan. Whether we start one day a week back Jan. 4 or 15. Our kids need the choice to be in school. The distance learning model has not gone well for my kids. They need to be physically at school for them to learn. I feel like our kids are so fragile right now, they don't need more disappointments from their school leaders.</p>
Anonymous	<p>The actions of the board are in blatant defiance of CDC guidelines and input from parents, teachers, students, and community members. It is unacceptable. I cannot wait for the day schools are able to open safely and I think in person instruction is important. However, in these unprecedented times, I do not believe it is safe or smart to allow huge groups of students in confined spaces (ie. classrooms). Please do not let the very vocal minority sway you to rush the opening before it is safe. Cases are currently skyrocketing and ICU capacity is very near 0. All community members, even students and young people who have great recovery rates are still at risk of contracting and spreading the virus.</p>
Anoosha Ghodsi-Shirazi	<p>My name is Anoosha Ghodsi-Shirazi MD. I am a parent of two children at Canyon Crest Academy. As we all know, the number of cases has risen significantly within the past few weeks. This has led to the third and most lethal spike of the COVID pandemic. This has placed a significant burden on the medical front line workers and hospital capacities. This is very REAL! My husband and I are both Physicians who both live and work in this community and due to the mode of transmission of this virus, I have serious reservations regarding the reopening plans of schools at this period of time. Opening in just a few weeks, would put significant pressure on the community and put so many lives in danger. As a healthcare professional, I do not think reopening now is a safe or smart idea. Reopening should hold off until the vaccine is more widely available.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am hopeful that the district will look at the current situation here in San Diego with ICU beds. It doesn't make sense to start in person school on January 4th. Let's do our part and help out our hospitals. Let's be SMART about this. A vaccine is out, light can now be seen at the end of the tunnel. As soon as we get out of the purple tier, that is the time to open back up. At our site, 50% of our families do not want to return. That is 50%, that number is very telling in itself. The high school is at 33% want to return. By going back on January 4th, we are all risking getting COVID 19 (much higher than if we stay at home during the stay at home orders) and putting our emergency workers in a worse place than they are today. The long-term effects of COVID 19 are scary and we should do everything in our power to protect our students and teachers. I don't want to risk having a life long condition because we opened our schools when we should have stayed the course of being SMART. Thank you all for your hard work and enjoy the holidays!</p>
Brian Robert	<p>I am a parent of a SDUHSD high schooler and my spouse is a veteran teacher in SDUHSD. Please halt this unsafe opening. There is clear scientific evidence that we should not reopen in the purple tier, and to do so only places our families and community at further risk while infection rates skyrocket and hospitals are at their limits. I am a teacher in Oceanside Unified, and my district, like so many others, has recognized how reckless plowing ahead with an extended opening would be now. They have wisely suspended in-person instruction. I strongly urge SDUHSD to follow the example of our neighboring districts and respect the science that dictates that we remain in a distance learning format at this time.</p>

NAME	Comment
Brian Shay	<p>Hello board, thank you for taking the time to listen and learn about what a safe reopening should be. I am an award winning and respected math teacher at CCA. I am a math guy, so I love data and logic. I also yearn to be back at CCA with all my students, yet I know that returning to school physically should happen when it is safe, and be gradually phased in. Within the past few days, our community has seen a significant rise in COVID19 infections and a big drop in ICU availability. Your vote last week has triggered many students, parents, and staff to rise up and request you to slow down the reopening plan. Our region is deep in the Purple Tier and will not be out of it for at least a few more weeks. Against CDC recommendations, many families are still traveling during this vacation, and should then quarantine afterwards to make sure they are COVID free. Starting a one-day hybrid model immediately after this break seems unwise and reckless. Our neighbor districts (Poway, Carlsbad, etc) realize this folly and voted to stay virtual for the beginning weeks of January. Your vote last week puts more students, families, and staff in unnecessary danger. The doctors who spoke at your meeting last week praised the 1 day/week learning, not the full return which you hastily adopted against the strong recommendations of staff and your colleagues on the board. UCSD and Dr. Prather did NOT review and praise your reopening plan, despite what district leadership state. They are very critical of your proposed safety measures for students and staff. Please allow school to remain virtual till the health experts deem it is safe to reopen. And then please have a gradual, phased in reopening plan. You have made it very clear that students and families who want to stay with virtual learning for the year are welcome to do that, so please extend that same courtesy to the staff that make this district the number one district in the region if not the state. The staffing issues all schools are experiencing can be alleviated if staff is given the option to telework. Thank you for your time.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Thanks for your leadership, hard work and empathy for students during this most difficult time. As our top priority has always been focused on the health and safety, we should consider all of our students, teachers, staff and their families equally, give the same selection choices whether they want to be on-site or work remotely. Teachers are the most valuable asset for our school district long run sustainability. Every family has the varied situation. We should not put them on risk or get their families concerned. It will be great if we could create a flexible solution to meet both the school reopen and the teacher protection needs E.g. we can learn from other regions that students go back to school but teachers remain on-line teaching. We just need a way to maintain the on-site order of the class. After 9-month experience accumulation and being well-prepared, I feel confident that our teachers could deliver quality education remotely.</p>
Bryn Faris	<p>What are you doing?! Why are we spending so much time and money on this?! Litigation is going to cost an outrageous amount of your citizens' tax money. The district has an obligation to follow the CDPH guidance as written. The district is not currently in compliance with its plan to reopen under any guidance other than the small cohorting guidance. This means it may not expand. In addition, will violating the health code open you up to further litigation from employees and others, costing us even more money? Can we instead spend this money on making the classroom safer for us all when we're in a lower tier of danger? All of our neighboring districts have voted to stay fully digital from home until at least January 25th. The staffing situation is REAL. People are taking leave. Subs are not qualified to teach! Are you going to get me a Spanish speaking sub? How about French? American Sign Language? How about AP Psychology? Math? Have you looked at how math is taught these days? It's not how you learned it! You could not go into a classroom and teach it, and neither could I. There are so many talking points to expand upon here. But I'm so very tired of fighting with THREE people for my dignity and for my students and their families health and safety. Why do I have to fight for this? Aren't we owed dignity and safety as educators and students? It's simple. It's not safe to return to the classroom...yet! It will be! But we need to get through this holiday push and see what happens from there. Are you rushing this so that you can say you won? At what expense?</p>

NAME	Comment
Carlotta Steffen	<p>Hello Board of Trustees,</p> <p>We have now entered the battle ground for reopening. I urge all to stand in the gap for our kids and families who choose to go back to school. You have heard the positive testimonies of well respected doctors/researchers that it is more beneficial for kids to return to school for both educational and mental well-being. Plus they said that our school are very prepared to safely open for students, teachers and admin. Remember this is a choice, not a mandate.</p> <p>I have a senior at La Costa Canyon who has an IEP. He has been trying his hardest to do the best he can with DL. He finds it quite difficult to focus, motivate and participate in the DL setting. His hands-on classes are well not hands- on. He feels very isolated from his classmates and teacher. He misses the camaraderie of seeing his friends to help break up the long day at school.</p> <p>My question is what is the actual number of kids choosing to go back to school? Based on that number of students returning, are the teachers' leaves, retiring, etc. going to leave a lot of holes? I don't know, but I'm sure the schools can get creative on solving this problem. I mean, this is their job.</p> <p>99.98% Carlotta Steffen</p>
Carol Chang	<p>SDUHSD has been open to a limited number of students offering in-person support to special needs students and English learners. It has not, however, been opened widely to the general population of students.</p> <p>We have two children in the district. A junior at TP and a SPED student at CCA.</p> <p>Even my SPED child was not offered to come back to in-person instruction, which is a testament that San Dieguito was not opened to the general population. Nonetheless, my SPED student has been successfully navigating distance learning the entire time, with better grades than his entire life. Because of DL, he has overcome his anxiety to speak in class or interact with his teachers. He can get personalized attention via private office hours, and he feels more comfortable participating via online because he is familiar with that type of interaction.</p> <p>I believe the state guidance says that schools cannot reopen for instruction during the purple tier if a school has only been offering in-person support to select small groups of students, which is the case for San Dieguito.</p> <p>Already 1/3 of one of my child's teachers will either have resigned or taking a leave of absence because they are in a high-risk health category. These are in high level courses (an AP course and an Advanced course). These teachers cannot be easily replaced, nor will the substitute easily be able to navigating DL technology.</p> <p>I am afraid the students will not be prepared adequately for the AP exam. GPA and AP exams are the only things distinguishing our students in the recent change in posture by the UC system.</p> <p>Can you please consider an alternative plan which would wait until we are out of the purple tier, and which would allow some teachers to teach from home, while a tier two volunteers or substitutes engage with the in-person students while the high-risk teachers teach remotely. This is a plan already in place at many public school districts such as Huntington Beach School District, Poway Unified School District, and at many of the local private schools, Parker, Country Day, TVT Day school.</p>
Carol S Knight	<p>I want to thank all of you for your efforts these past nine months and especially, to those who voted last week to safely re-open our schools at the end of January. Though we are in a surge right now, we need to be ready to welcome our kids back in 6 weeks. They have been in DL long enough. From the moment the school doors closed in March, the Board hand-in-glove with admin and teachers should have been working on detailed plans, ready for immediate implementation, to get the kids back to school when the time was right. That time was months ago but here we are at the end of December still discussing it and facing legal challenges.</p> <p>I ask that you please stand strongly behind your vote of last week that put the wheels in motion for re-opening. Without in-person schooling our kids, families, and teachers will all continue to suffer - the affects lasting for years to come.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>Speaking for classified staff: We are the ones who were asked to return in person at the very beginning of the school year. We are the ones on the front lines at the school sites with in-person learning. We are the ones who feel the most unsafe at the sites and we seem to be the ones you will rely on when you don't have enough certificated staff. The district does not care at all about our safety. Apparently our ventilation system is too old to use HEPA filtration. They sent over small filters which they have placed around the building. These can't possibly be enough for the square footage of the whole building. The plan for the classrooms is the same and I just can't believe that these little portable filters are enough. Additionally, we anticipate a loss of certificated teachers and an increase in students on campus. Who will pick up the slack supervising these additional students? There is a substitute shortage regardless of your increase in pay. If you read our contract, and it is doubtful anyone has, you will see that this is working outside of our classification. Also, asking a classified employee to supervise a classroom situation is also a violation of the California Education Code. We are not only unprepared for this opening, but we are unsafe. The District is asking employees to test for Covid-19 but not students. At the very least, it should be equal. The call to re-open the schools is also in direct conflict with the current Governor's orders to keep gatherings within family units. "All gatherings with members of other households are prohibited." I hope that you will consider all of this not just for the classified staff, but for students, families and the entire voting community that is affected by your decisions.</p>
Carrie Bishop	<p>Hello, I want to thank each member of the Board for your continuing dedication. I know from experience, how difficult being on any Board can be. I would like to encourage each of you to keep your vigilance about re-opening our schools. Many, many, students are not thriving in front of screens for learning. If you do not begin this process of re-opening now, then when? Our world will never be 100% safe from disease and viruses. We have to learn to live with this as safely as we can. Locking our children away is not the answer. I will be renewing my emergency credential to come in and sub, and I am immune compromised. But I will do it because I don't want to hear about another child trying to harm themselves, slide into more depression or end up dead from suicide. This is very real. It's appalling to me that we are putting one generation of people ahead of another in saying they are more important. No one is acknowledging the kids who are suffering and there is no way, these teens are answering the 'school surveys' about how they are doing, honestly. It's too embarrassing for anyone to admit they are not doing well, and most do not have the emotional maturity to understand they are anything but sad. Trying to articulate that in a way that's meaningful in a survey is not going to work. Consistency and being social is the only things these kids have to look forward to by being on a campus. Please continue to fight for that for all of our kids. They need you to do that, and the choice is theirs and their family's, to return or not.</p> <p>I am also equally in favor of investigating weekly testing for the students who return and teachers/staff. I believe you would mitigate much of the argument against reopening, if you were able to have this in place on each campus. I have no idea the cost involved, but would gather many of our local labs, who have been at the forefront of testing development, would be willing to donate or work with our district to come up with a plan.</p> <p>Thank you again for your time and dedication. Please, please, stick to the re-opening plan.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Please reopen schools. Our kids are suffering mentally without the social interaction. Distance learning is more harmful to their overall health.</p>
Cheryl Dunbar	<p>How sad this is, that the teachers union is suing our district. Firstly, I know this does not represent the choice all teachers. I applaud those teachers who are ready and willing to continue forward with the Jan 4 plan. Secondly, our district is open and our school board trustees voted to give our students a choice! The option allows students to choose what is best for their situation.</p>
Chiara Frank	<p>Hi, my name is Chiara Frank, a student in SDUHSD, and I am concerned about the impact on teachers from the decision made on school re-opening in January. As the SDFA has filed a lawsuit against the board, there is a dire need for the board to listen to teachers' views, concerns, and opinions on this matter. Teachers matter, and as a student, I know how much I appreciate my teachers and that they cannot just be replaced by substitutes. Teachers have done everything they can to have their needs heard, but the board has not listened. To understand what they need, the board needs to understand their perspective and why they sued, and put themselves in their shoes, as they plan to send all teachers back full time to school, putting their health in jeopardy. The cost of hiring lawyers for this lawsuit could cost the district thousands of dollars that could have gone to improving the safety of our schools, such as ventilation or screening processes, to ensure students and teachers SHOULD go back. If teachers are forced to return, more may leave, with the district losing such valued and cared about people that are key to our education as students, and who can't be easily replaced. If your plan for returning 5 days-a-week is based upon improving our learning in school, our learning will be as much, if not more, jeopardized if our teachers go on leave, thus DEFEATING the purpose. Under the current plan, reopening is not safe for teachers, risking their lives and the lives of their family members. If they refuse, they are facing unpaid and uninsured leave, which is NOT a fair choice. It is also not fair for students to have the choice, whereas teachers do not and must fear the fate of their health, with it depending on if students practice safe activities in person. There has been so much division this past year and I urge you all to bring unity by listening and understanding our teachers, as they and their voices deserve to be heard. Thank you for considering my input. The voices of students, teachers, and parents that oppose the board's plan all need to be listened to.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>For almost a year I have watched my two teens waver between sadness, lethargy, and varying levels of depression. None of this is surprising. We have always known that isolation, excessive screen time, and lack of physical activity are key ingredients for depression.</p> <p>Medical experts and government officials agree that in-person education should be prioritized because schools are proven to be low-risk for spread. On-line learning is damaging my children. They matter just as much as private school students. They deserve an in-person education too.</p>
Cindi Schildhouse	<p>Now, in addition to the January 4th, 2021 return date being reckless and irresponsible it is legally questionable. Our campuses are not open for in-person instruction, we have been providing in-person support and the two are very different.</p> <p>I understand placing little or no value in my comments, I am only a teacher. I have learned that a majority of the SDUHSD School Board has little respect for teachers. The majority of the SDUHSD School Board has repeatedly not heeded (or ignored or not even heard) the input and advice of teachers and other educators. Now you must spend more precious time and money to answer this legal matter. It did not have to come to this! Teachers repeatedly asked for conversation and we were ignored. We are looking to do what is best for the students and we will do what it takes to safely do what is best for our students.</p> <p>Not only are we now using the verge on noncompliance as our measure of acceptableness we are bending (I think in PR speak it is redefining) our own statements and definitions to reach the goal of a few very vocal and ill informed voices.</p> <p>Again, please reevaluate the January 4th, 2021 return.</p>
Anonymous	<p>The proposal to return 1/4/21 (and then for 5 days 1/21) defies rational logic. Districts around us are delaying and the virus is surging at an all time high. The argument that kids don't spread COVID is untrue. Locally we are currently experiencing a surge due to blatant disregard for CDC guidelines between Halloween and Thanksgiving. Christmas & NYE are destined to be far worse-with college kids home and locals traveling. Yet our district wants to NOW reopen 3 days later. Our local ICUS are at 0 capacity. The local defiance to Stay Home/restaurant take-out only and mask wearing in public, should make it clear that many people in this community do not take COVID seriously. The fact that there will be no cleaning between classes, some classes have windows that don't open, there has been no proposed change in bell schedules - and that kids will still congregate , hop in cars, and go to lunch feels that much of this "safe reopening plan" is just theatrics. To see comments about how disposable some feel our teachers are is heartbreaking. I am not interested in having unqualified substitutes teach students advanced courses, because a beloved and qualified teacher is choosing to to stay safe. Nobody thinks Distance Learning is ideal for anyone involved, but this is an unprecedented global pandemic. I also want to compliment the staff at SDA for providing a quality educational experience for our students, even while online. Students who are truly struggling are permitted to be on campus right now. To rush an opening due to a loud and vocal minority is unfair. I recommend anyone who argues that we should "get over this" , that the survival rate is incredibly high etc. - go actually talk to any local healthcare worker. Better yet - take a visit to a local hospital. They are overwhelmed and devastated. We need to be teaching our kids to care about the community at large, and sometimes putting the needs of others above themselves - a concept that is so clearly lacking in a neighborhood I used to love.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am a parent in the community and am very concerned about the school re-openings set for January in the midst of a height in the COVID pandemic. How are schools intending on keeping students/teachers safe as well as the community surrounding the students? Any gatherings outside your household are prohibited as noted in current state COVID restrictions so the school boards actions are going against state directives that were setup to protect this community. A re-opening of the schools at this point would be a disregard for the health and well-being of the students, teachers and the community as a whole. Everyone would like things to go back to normal but rushing to get students back in classrooms would likely cause an increase in COVID cases as seen through many other schools in the state that had re-opened and were forced to close again, but not before increasing the community spread of the virus. This opinion is not based on politics but simply scientific fact. Kids learn by example so show them that the board cares about following the rules that were set up to keep them safe. Show the teachers and school staff that their lives matter by following the state safety directives that are meant for everyone. Any community spread that occurs due to the board's decisions to re-open will be on your hands. Be prepared to take responsibility for your actions. Re-opening with all the facts in place will not excuse your actions.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I truly hope that our kids needs are still considered primary in our education system, because at this point, all we hear is fear for teachers-which can be addressed-but our children's education and their futures should not be the price we pay. It is mind blowing that fear is ruling and winning in our SDUHS DISTRICT-when it has been shown time & time again that in school learning can be done safely for all parties.</p> <p>I urge you to please continue with gradual school reopening-our kids futures depend on it. Thank you.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>It should not have come to this legal battle.</p> <p>The district's desired path forward was communicated to you time and again by district and site administrators, teachers, staff, and students. Go slow, be cautious and safe, and preserve and respect our education, our schools, our teachers, and our lives.</p> <p>The three board members who unlawfully voted to reopen and expand reopening in these COVID conditions deliberately and negligently ignored CDPH, district and site administration, teachers, parents, and most blatantly of all, students.</p> <p>If you had done the actual job you were hired to do, and had listened to the majority of administrators, teachers, students, families, scientists, County Health Officials or even the nightly news, you would admit that no school should or realistically can be open, in these COVID conditions. Even in-person cohort, hybrid education models that strictly follow all CDPH guidelines (which SDUHSD's decidedly does not) clearly break down in these COVID conditions. The vast majority of similarly situated school districts in San Diego County have paused or postponed in person, on campus instruction for January.</p> <p>Instead, you let politics lead you down the path of negligence, and here we are.</p> <p>Please stop and think about our childrens' education, the livelihoods of our teachers, classified staff, and administrators, and our community. SDUHSD Board Philosophy guides you to create "a safe, nurturing environment and positive school climate are necessary for learning, academic achievement, and student development." Instead, their unlawful behavior and actions of 12/15 ignored this and sowed a deep mistrust in the leadership of our district. Our schools deserve a cautious, slow, safe-as-possible reopening, collaboratively and meticulously planned by site and district administrators and teachers, with input from students and parents, with the long-term in mind, and following the spirit and intent of CDPH guidelines. Postpone even thinking about a date for reopening SDUHSD until we are safely out in the red tier.</p>
Connor Linggi	<p>Hi, my name is Connor Linggi. I am a concerned student. Since the school board is forcing teachers to make the unsafe return to school, the SDFA is suing the school board. Fighting this lawsuit could lose the district and city thousands of dollars that could go to bettering the lives of students in the district. The way forward is simple, delay the reopening of schools until it is safe for students and teachers to return. Teachers deserve so much more. Fighting this lawsuit would be a huge mistake.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my input. Students, teachers, and parents all stand against the board.</p> <p>Connor</p>
Anonymous	<p>As the board further continues with their reopening plan, I offer this piece of information. There is more to the logistics of whether to group by alpha or grade, but how those students will get to campus. Will they be FORCED to ride on city buses? Think about that for a moment! We are opening based on sanitation practices. What are the practices for the buses at the hours our students will be riding? I was extremely concerned about this when our students who were cohorting at SDA were sent back to LCC, within a week we had a positive case. Can the district guarantee that student didn't contract Covid 19 while taking the city bus to continue their education? Will we see a higher number of students who are forced onto public transportation to comply with their parents and the school boards wishes , then a week later test positive expanding the already out of control numbers? The district has the ability to query out illness after breaks from past years. Do yourselves a favor and research that data pre Covid. The numbers in a "normal" year are very high. What do you think they will be before third quarter? For the health and safety of the entire communities in which you serve, consider all the logistics. Thank you</p>
Anonymous	<p>My Jr at LCC is glad she will have the chance to go back to school campus for at least one day a week to catch up on her clases which she thinks is falling behind although she has good grades she claims that hasn't learn the same...she spend most of the day in pjs with back ache ...at least this feels like the light at the end of the tunnel ...if it was up to us as a family she can go back on campus 5 days a week with no problem ..this is taking forever while in other states is different with friends that she has in Idaho Utah and Colorado</p>

NAME	Comment
Crystal Sandoval	<p>We would like a choice to send our kids to school. The choice to remain home is not being taken away. Our Governor even exercised the choice to put his own children in full time, in person schooling at this time. Oh, if only we all had the income to fund our choice when our tax funded option has failed to provide. Please, let our families have a choice just like those who want or need to remain home. This is only fair and equal.</p> <p>This short clip made by a 9th grader sums up what is happening to our children who are not thriving remaining at home. Please please watch. This is straight from the students who are struggling: https://youtu.be/iSkbd6hRkXo</p>
Cyndi Darlington	<p>Please continue to push to get kids back on campus! It is heartbreaking that our Teacher's Union would sue to disrupt this process. Medical experts agree that being on campus is no more dangerous than going to the store. In the meantime, our kids and community are suffering. My kids are at Oak Crest and SDA, and they have become isolated and depressed over the last nine months. I can only be more concerned about other kids who don't have a strong support system. We owe it to them and their families to find a way back. Covid isn't going anywhere; we need to learn to safely get back to school. Other schools are doing it. And literally every other industry has figured it out. Most of us don't have a choice or option to not go back to our jobs, and many have been doing so for months. My daughter is a cashier at Target and has been safely doing her job each day. Please don't let this unbelievably disruptive lawsuit reverse the progress you have made, and also stop the great teachers who really want to be back. Please, please fight for our students.</p>
Cyndi Pokal	<p>My daughter would like to go back to school.</p>
Cynthia Edgerly	<p>I am beyond dismayed and frustrated to have to be writing to the board yet again about another foolish decision it has made. Opening schools one day a week on January 4th is irresponsible, given the current pandemic numbers. Opening 5 days a week on 1/27 is absolutely negligent. According to the district survey conducted prior to the most recent stay-at-home order, less than half of students indicated they planned to return on 1/4. Given the worsening conditions, combined with the latest board decision to fully reopen on 1/27, that number is guaranteed to decrease substantially. I have personally heard from many families who have changed their minds after originally indicating they would return for in-person learning. A Spanish class at PTMS has only ONE student returning. As evidenced by the recent lawsuit against the district, the majority of teachers wish to continue teaching from home. Clearly, the community has spoken. Why are 3 of the 5 board members not listening? If the cost of human lives (which will certainly go up if you return students to campus in large numbers, without proper safety measures, while in the purple tier) doesn't mean anything to you, perhaps the cost of litigating your reckless decisions will. As a taxpayer, I vehemently object to using our district's resources to pay attorney's fees, when the funds are so desperately needed for improving safety mechanisms, including implementing a proper testing protocol and improved air filtration in all schools. As a mother of two children in the district, I will hold all of you who have voted to endanger our community by opening in January directly responsible if anyone in my family falls ill. Just today, the LA Times reported that more (7 in just the past week) children in California are developing MIS-C, a serious illness caused by Covid, and that one recently died from the disease. The board needs to listen to its students, teachers, and the majority of its constituents, and pause and improve reopening plans!</p>
Daniel Yachi	<p>Good afternoon. My name is Daniel Yachi and I am a Junior at CCA. I'd like to tell the board that this cease and desist order is the boards final warning to stop the unsafe re opening on January 4th. Us students, and our wonderful teachers have all expressed our concern about this re opening through emails, protest, comments, and more. Yet, the board refuses to push back the reopening plans despite the safety of students and teachers being at risk. I urge the board to take this cease and desist order to heart, and make the right choice for the sake of everyone in this district. If anyone were to get sick or even die as a result of this decision, their death and their pain will be your fault. Thank you.</p>
Diana E Spragg	<p>Sending staff and students back to school on Jan 4 will put lives at risk, alienate your staff, and increase the stress and anxiety faced by both students and staff. As such, you will set yourself up for a logistical and staffing/substitute disaster.</p> <p>Students in grades 7-12 need the support of subject matter specialists, something they simply will not get with substitutes. How will students fare emotionally and academically when their friends and teachers fall ill and when sick teachers and teachers on leave are replaced by inexperienced short-term and long-term subs?</p> <p>By requiring teachers to report to work on January 4 (or to exhaust their leave), you are intentionally putting SDUHSD's greatest asset at significant risk. This will create an SDUHSD staffing problem for years to come.</p> <p>Please delay our expanding school openings for the safety of all of us and to retain the outstanding staff of SDUHSD.</p>

NAME	Comment
Dipul Kansagara	<p>My name is Dipul Kansagara, MD. I am the parent of two students in the District, as well as the Chief of Hospital Medicine at Kaiser Permanente in San Diego. I am making these comments in a personal capacity, and do not represent the views of Kaiser Permanente.</p> <p>My role as a hospitalist is to care for people who are admitted to the hospital. I have personally cared for dozens of COVID patients, including those who have unfortunately succumbed to this disease. As is widely known, this disease is spread through airborne droplets from person to person in close proximity in indoor areas. The gatherings of people this past Thanksgiving holiday have now led to this third and most severe wave of COVID infections, with no end or peak in sight. The December holidays may cause even more spread, with even higher infection rates in January.</p> <p>We know that COVID can be spread from people of all ages, and the young particularly can spread it asymptotically. But adults (particularly the elderly) suffer the worst consequences, especially those with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and immunocompromised states (for example, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, or being on chemotherapy for cancer).</p> <p>Opening schools during this third wave of COVID will only supercharge community spread. Our San Diego hospitals are already overtaxed (and this is BEFORE the anticipated spike in January). Many ICU's are completely full, with hospitals creating additional wards to manage the overflow of critical cases.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the impact and responsibility of your decisions on our community. Schools should remain in distance learning mode at least until after Spring Break, if not the Fall, when the COVID vaccine will be widely available.</p> <p>Thank you for your careful deliberations and service to our community.</p> <p>Dipul Kansagara, MD</p>
Duncan Brown	<p>The educators of San Dieguito love our students. We are passionate about the career path we have chosen. We are accomplished, professional, and have served our community and our students faithfully.</p> <p>In return, we simply asked to come back to school safely. We believe the proposed reopenings while the County is in the Purple Tier are unlawful under both state CDPH reopening rules and the December 10 San Diego County's Public Health Order. Moreover, the move is particularly reckless and dangerous from a public health perspective with the record levels of community spread.</p> <p>It is deeply troubling and disheartening that SDFA must take legal action to be heard by the district. Under the current local public health conditions, you left us with little choice.</p> <p>Reopening on January 4th during record spikes, after holiday gatherings, and 72 hours after New Year's Eve with NO student baseline testing is reckless and dangerous.</p> <p>The January 27th proposal goes against the recommendations of Asst. Supt. Of Curriculum Bryan Marcus, Asst. Supt. Of Human Resources Cindy Frazee, Deputy Supt. Mark Miller and Supt. Haley. You discarded decades of educational experience like yesterday's garbage.</p> <p>Crowd the classrooms, crowd the hallways, crowd the courtyards. With no plan in place, you simply told those you callously ignored to now "figure it out." What educational experience do you have to override these experts? Your decisions are based on nothing but campaign promises and party politics, putting a community at risk for your own political gain. Reckless and dangerous!</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>I am a concerned parent of a student from your district.</p> <p>I am absolutely shocked that you are planning on reopening in January. But most of all, I am stunned to learn Special Education and Special Needs kids have been back on campus for MONTHS. The staff and teachers have already been in the trenches, sacrificed like mice in a medical experiment. People are fighting to keep schools closed, which I agree with, but what about the staff already there?? Who is fighting for them?! They need to be sent home! I get that you consider these kids high risk, but at the expense of staff members and their families? Think of a creative way to help them online, safely!</p> <p>And before you say I am just being insensitive, etc . I have a special needs sister. I grew up taking care of her while my parents were at work. SO, I know VOLUMES more than most of you so-called specialists. I live it. Still do. And let's be honest, you are providing a dangerous service - the benefits do not outweigh the costs. Close ALL in person-instruction until we are safer. To not close down is blatantly negligent.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>As a member of the community and following your decision to re-open schools fully you have found a loophole which puts both teachers, students and staff at risk. You have not fully re-opened, you provide in learning to a limited number of students who are not in classrooms and are not required to change rooms. It seems you have shifted the burden to the parents, teachers, students, janitorial staff, and administrative staff to ensure that your safety protocols are followed. Besides hand sanitizers, gloves, masks, and filters what have you done in all the months that you have had available to you to secure the safety of students and staff. Management of retail stores and restaurants have had to turn on a dime to meet these protocols. Plexiglass to between cashiers and customers, outdoor dining, indoor dining with plexiglass and/or other dividers to keep individuals apart. Take responsibility and visit the class rooms and work with the teachers. It seems you have decided to make students, parents and teachers the villains instead of taking responsibility for your delay tactics in establishing a safe environment. This situation has been on going since March of 2020, and now in December nine months later you are still trying to figure out the solution. What have you all been doing? In March you asked the teachers to figure out virtual teaching, you asked parents to get their kids on line, you asked cafeteria workers to serve food to kids who depended on school lunches and they did it all without hesitation because they care. They did what they were asked to do. They showed their commitment and dedication to the community. It's time as a school board that you showed your commitment to all of those who put it on the line every day and take a long hard look at the partially thought out plan you put together and work as a team with your teachers, students and administrative staff to make the school year both safe and successful. Techers want to teach, students want to learn and no one wants to suffer the burden of illness.</p>
Ella Sobhani	<p>Hello, my name is Ella Sobhani, and I'm a senior at Canyon Crest Academy. Over the past two Board meetings I have listened in on, I am disappointed, to say the least, in the decisions being made for SDUHSD students and staff. At last Tuesday's meeting, there was a comment made saying that student voices hold "near zero" weight in the Board's decision-making process. Trustee Allman, I appreciate your statement on Thursday's continuation of Tuesday's meeting, although I cannot help but feel like the situation has not yet properly been rectified. Coming from a student perspective, I can say my teachers (all throughout spring semester of last year, and fall semester of this school year), have been pillars in helping me cope with all the uncertainty in the world around me. I have never before felt such empathy, understanding, and kindness. It disheartens me to see such wonderful, truly selfless people who have dedicated their lives to educating and mentoring youth, be treated with such disrespect. This is the true reason I am writing this public comment. I strongly urge you to consider the circumstances of teachers more seriously, and grant them the respect they deserve. Thank you.</p>
Ellen di Cristina	<p>Please do not push CTA and SDFA to pursue further legal measures. Because, legal matters aside, you have a professional responsibility to do what's best for SDUHSD students, teachers, and community members. Sending kids back to a learning environment that does not have broad enough protections to keep them and their families safe is a gross misuse of your authority. Please allow cooler heads to prevail and avoid any additional cost (health-wise and financial) to our community by accepting the terms of CTA and SDFA and thereby avoiding unnecessary legal action. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>First off if the teachers are suing you, than you are probably doing something wrong. How about instead of fighting against the teachers you work with them to create a safe re-opening that everybody agrees with. The point of the board is to help the schools, and you are actively going against the school by hurting the teachers. You have hurt and disregarded the teachers so much that they have been forced to have a suit to preserve their own safety. It is also illegal to re-open the school, you can only re-open the school if it was previously open (which we are not). Not only are you disregarding the teachers, but also the law itself. By disregarding the teachers you are hurting all the students because if the teachers have to go on leave because the conditions are unsafe, than the students wont have a teacher since there are no substitutes left. By fighting this suit you are not only fighting the teachers, but the students in the district. Please stop fighting this useless suit and help create a better re-opening plan that teachers, students, and parents all agree too. We should all have the same goal, to help students, stop fighting trying to ruin our education. Take a hint, if the teachers filed a suit against you, you are probably doing something wrong.</p>

NAME	Comment
Emily Warner	<p>2020 has been an exceptionally difficult year for my five school aged sons. My oldest son was denied the opportunity to enjoy the rest of his senior year and say goodbye to all of his friends and teachers when Covid closed down the schools. This school year my 11th grader has had several meltdowns directly resulting from being quarantined and isolated from his peers. One incident resulted in me calling the police for assistance. He was immediately put in therapy but is still under an enormous amount of stress because he is off campus. My 8th grade son has been getting F's and D's all year despite extensive accommodations. Having to communicate with teachers and complete assignments over technology has been extremely difficult for him.</p> <p>Our kids desperately need to be back on campus with teachers teaching them and peers around them. Schools all over the country, including in California, have found ways to make it work safely. Please let our kids back on campus full-time. Sincerely, Emily Warner</p>
Erika Daniels	<p>I am at a loss as to even know how to begin this comment. I am devastated to learn that SDUHSD teachers are actually suing the district. While I understand that a teachers' union, like any union, is primarily focused on obtaining the highest salaries, best benefits, and easiest working conditions for its employees, I had always thought that it also included care for the well-being of young people as an additional goal. Apparently I was wrong. I am a professional educator and am begging to go back to teach in an in-person format. I know other teachers who are equally as adamant that the best place to learn is in a classroom in the presence of others, and the SDFEA and CTA are NOT speaking for those teachers. My Winter Break will be spent sending in applications to private schools and considering a move out of state--anything to find a place where professional educators put the needs of students before their own conveniences. Lack of childcare, a desire to go to the grocery store in the middle of the day, an opportunity to schedule appointments and to workout instead of actually providing an education--these are all reasons that the union wants schools to remain in a virtual format. These are not reasons that schools SHOULD remain in a virtual format.</p> <p>Board members, please stay strong. Fight to get our children back in school for in-person education, as well as option to stay home for those that are afraid or truly at risk. Show this community that their elected officials are willing to stand up to strong arm union tactics and put children first. This threatened lawsuit shows that students are not even ON the union's priority list, let alone anywhere near the top.</p>
Esteban Lau	<p>The decision to reopen is a dangerous and misguided approach. We are not prepared to go back to school in person and remain safe from COVID. The district is violating CDPH guidance by returning to school grounds, putting both teachers and students in danger. Many public school districts are following the CDPH Guidance as they should. By forcing our teachers back to school, those who have young children at home are forced to go on leave to take care of them, or risk their lives. These are crucial members of our community, and I would not be the person I am today without them. Not only is the push for reopening in disregard of health guidance and human empathy, it also is ineffective in achieving it's main goal. How would this system in any way improve the educational situation for students who are struggling? Being in a classroom at school while on your computer as the teacher instructs everyone online is wasteful and useless. You are uprooting the lives of our educators for the benefit of no one. I am infuriated with the stance that the board has taken on the input of others. It is not enough to simply state that you made a misstep in telling us that our opinions as students are nearly worthless. It is only a misstep insofar as you showed the world how you really feel. I implore you to listen to your constituents and do what is right.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>Congratulations Ms. Muir! Your first meeting as President EQUALS a lawsuit against the Board for violating California law. What's next? Federal law?</p> <p>Congratulations Mr. Allman! You fulfilled your campaign promise! In a 11/14 FB post, you said you are not "afraid to make mistakes," and have "little interest in analysis for the sake of analysis." Well, you made a BIG MISTAKE with ZERO ANALYSIS. In your haste, you failed to listen to student leaders, insulting and belittling them (brilliant Mr. Politician; students become voters and will oust you). To top it off, you paused for ZERO seconds to hear staff who begged you not to ramrod your ill-considered full reopening for 1/27. Surprising? NOPE! Your focus is clear: "If you change your mind and want to move more aggressively to open schools rather than cautiously, please let ME know and we'll welcome you into the GROUP." Your role, sir, is to listen to ALL VOICES, and TO ACT WITH CAUTION! Moving "AGGRESSIVELY," at the height of a WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC, is GROSS NEGLIGENCE. After you bleed the District dry with nothing to show for it, your plan to run for Congress again – by trying to capture CA-49 – will bleed YOU dry with nothing to show for it. Please abandon ship before you "help" Muir and Mossy steer it into the iceberg!</p> <p>Congratulations Ms. Mossy! Agreeing to vote YES on Allman's ill-fated resolution BEFORE hearing staff's warnings and pleas of impossibility makes you COMPLICIT and EXPOSED, just like Allman.</p> <p>SOLUTION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proceed with Caution! There is a BRIGHT LIGHT at the end of this dark tunnel. If not with caution now...when? 2. Do what other high school districts are doing – HOLD OFF on returning after the holidays. Trustees Muir, Allman and Mossy, you have VERY NEARLY ZERO reasons to believe you are smarter than other boards. 3. Stop tearing down our award-winning district. Listen to all stakeholders – not just those in Allman's GROUP echo chamber – to maintain the strength and reputation of our schools and protect the District (and you) from valid claims and expensive litigation.
Fiona Rose	<p>As a student, in science, math, and engineering, we are taught the scientific method, and how to analyze facts and data. A fact is that over 2,000 people a day are testing positive for COVID-19 in San Diego County. Hospitals are filled, and there is a stay at home order in place. The district is being sued because reopening is currently ILLEGAL under state guidelines, wasting money that could be put towards the students. You can say that I'm just a kid without the ability to form my own opinions, and you can claim that reopening is all for my benefit, but how is it benefiting me and my education if my teachers contract the virus? How is it benefiting me if my teachers are forced to take a leave for their families, or for their own health? How is it benefiting me if I have a substitute teacher for an AP class in which they know nothing about? You claim that the students are the priority, but what is a student without their teachers? Arguably the most important part of the scientific method is analysis and revision. Based upon science and fact, it is clear that reopening before teachers can be vaccinated, or before case numbers lower is a faulty plan. If a plan is not following the facts, change it! Use the data, listen to OUR opinions (because they certainly matter), reassess, and make a new, safer plan.</p>
Frances Chai	<p>The effort teachers put into teaching their students during a pandemic shouldn't be taken for granted. They do so much for us every single day and it would be extremely naive to assume that their jobs are easier because we are online. I am a senior at CCA and every day, my teachers try their best to keep my classmates and I engaged with the learning material. I guarantee that none of you on the board would last a single class period in their shoes. As board members, it is part of your job to PROTECT teachers, not put them in a difficult position where they have to make the near impossible decision of choosing between their jobs and their health. They will always deserve so much more than they are given. I implore the board to allow teachers to continue teaching remotely and to keep campuses from reopening to everyone until San Diego is out of the purple tier for two weeks. Thank you.</p>

NAME	Comment
Gavin Hirst	<p>Other public school districts are following the CDPH Guidance as intended. The governor was clear in issuing the recent stay at home order; specifically, schools that are open may stay open. SDUHSD, like other school districts open only under the small cohorting guidance, is not considered open.</p> <p>I was shocked that no epidemiologists or infectious disease experts spoke at the meeting last week and this gave an inaccurate view of the science. There is clear scientific evidence and guidance that we should not reopen in the purple tier. Our own infectious disease expert Dr. Chip Schooley from UCSD recently said "Right now, the numbers, where they're going, you don't open a school anywhere." and "We've got to bring the numbers way down, then the schools are ready to open."</p> <p>I think it's also reasonable to plan for the fact that we will not have enough teachers to open in January !</p> <p>Finally, I have to say that Michael Allman should be ashamed of himself regarding his comments last week. For a school board member to say that the views of the student community count for "next to zero" is reprehensible.</p>
Gillian Brittan	<p>Teachers want to return when we are supported by the district & public health data to do so. Returning in a purple tier where if we get sick (already been positive COVID cases on school campuses w current small groups), there are limited resources & hospital beds available is unconscionable. Classrooms with no windows that open & shared classrooms exposing teachers during preps relying on an air filter, 2' high plexiglass divider at my desk, sanitising wipes & hand cleaner will do little to protect people in classes before widespread vaccine distribution & regular testing available with timely reporting. And you can pay what you want for a sub, but your priority should be retaining existing employees with flexible virtual teaching due to health or childcare issues. As a special education teacher, a sub cannot hold my IEPs unless they are credentialed & as I had to scramble to find my own subs both times out on maternity leave, I don't feel chances in a pandemic would be much better.</p>
Gina Cameron	<p>Opening the schools flies in the face of rising COVID 19 numbers and the shortage of ICU beds and staff. Keep them closed until current conditions abate!</p>
Anonymous	<p>Opening schools while SD is in the Purple Tier, contributes to community spread. The CDC website has a table titled, CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Risk of Introduction and Transmission of COVID-19 in Schools. Based on various indicators, our schools are at the two highest tiers for likely transmission in school. Testing positivity and case rates alone indicate that Covid is certain to spread in our schools, which will then further spread to our community. Community spread of Covid is the reason that business are hurting, children are not in school, people are suffering physically and mentally, and that family members aren't able to see one another. The safest way to return to school, in order to prevent community spread, is to do so when our county is no longer in the Purple Tier. Expanded reopening will also result in further disruption of education due to teacher attrition. Teachers are feeling disposable and undervalued, and as a result many are intending to quit, retire, or take a leave of absence. On 12/11, SDUHSD posted a need for substitute teachers on its Facebook page, as well as a link to "How to Apply for a Substitute Permit." It is clear that there is a shortage of substitute teachers, thereby necessitating the casting of a wider net, which will no doubt impact the quality of education. Long-term substitute situations are disruptive in the best of circumstances. Having to teach students in the current in-person and distance learning environment, which has tested even the most seasoned of educators, will be grueling for substitute teachers. This will no doubt have an impact our kids. This is a fierce debate, and there is no easy choice that will meet the needs of everyone. However, there are guidelines in place to assist in making an objective decision, devoid of passion and bias. According to the San Diego County Triggers For Modifying Health Officer Order, as well as the CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Risk of Introduction and Transmission of COVID-19 in Schools, we are not yet in a position to return more students to school responsibly.</p>
Glenn Collins	<p>This legal action was entirely avoidable if the Board has listened to the many concerns and issues raised by the teachers and the community over the past several months. Taken all together these parties have put forth numerous plans and ideas to better handle this very difficult situation. It is a shame that so many of these were ignored.</p> <p>To the best of my knowledge on January 4 SDUHSD will be the only district in our area that is not delaying opening at the middle and high school level. Also, SDU is following the UCSD Return to Learn plan. It has never been clear to me why we have not followed that plan even as our much larger neighboring district is. It has also come to my attention that the San Diego County Office of Education has sent a letter to Superintendents that raises some very serious concerns about whether or not this re-opening is even legal.</p> <p>Related to this is the issue of substitute teachers or lack thereof. This district is renowned for its tremendous academic standing in the state and the nation. That has fueled our student's success in their lives beyond high school. This is all threatened by this rash action and by the Board's unwillingness to listen to the very valid concerns of the community. Vaccines are going out now. Why are we pouring gasoline on the fire when the fire engine is around the corner?.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>Once again, certain board members profess to be representing the community and sharing their “concerns” about the well-being of students while proposing negligent and ill-advised plans for those very students’ welfare. Teachers have asked for better safety plans, and the district hides behind divided public opinion on what constitutes “safe,” and the board tells people they have the “choice” to elect out without concern for equity or implementation. The district personnel, those responsible for making any plan successful, tell the board that “If you vote for anything more [than a one day a week model], I’m going to be brutally honest. You’re asking for trouble,” and the board ignores the warning. Certain board members show more concern over accolades from followers who advocate for unrealistic and simplistic solutions rather than taking the time to educate themselves. Teachers have been directed to stop speaking to parents and students about reopening, cutting off a trusted source of information for many families, and others have vilified and bullied teachers which has left them afraid, dispirited, and broken down – where is the board’s compassion for them?</p> <p>Every teacher wants to see their students in person, and while there may be a range on their views about the district’s safety plan, what they all know (even if they are now afraid or unable to say so) is that the INSTRUCTION WILL SUFFER with the shifts the board is making. If a child is struggling or suffering, a family would be better served working with the teachers and staff to get those individual needs met rather than creating a situation where instruction for all will degrade and lose consistency and sustainability, all while the current health situation creates further challenges. The educators know this, and Allman, Mossy, and Muir won’t listen, leaving our district to be a “leader” in how not to proceed during this time. You’re already throwing away money on substitute teachers rather than retaining staff, DON’T ADD LEGAL FEES TO DEFEND AN UNWORKABLE PLAN. Stop the board negligence now!</p>
Haewon Chung	<p>Hi, my name is Haewon Chung, and I am a student at CCA. I am troubled that the board is pushing for an ambiguous, impractical plan despite the SDFA’s lawsuit and students’ concerns. I believe the board should not fight against this lawsuit instead of spending the district’s capital on ensuring safety and adequate ventilation. Legal expenses only cut money that can be used on students and safety. Instead of making an already impractical plan more unrealistic, please listen to the teachers & students and push back reopening.</p>

NAME	Comment
Heather Dugdale	<p>"If . . . you want to move more aggressively to open schools rather than cautiously . . .we . . . welcome you."</p> <p>". . . it would be impossible to provide equal instruction to all! . . . We are going to have a Concurrent learning model, if someone thinks it's (in)equitable, they can tell it to the judge."</p> <p>These statements of Trustee Allman are from a closed to the public and censored Facebook page on October 23 and November 30. On that same page, on October 9th, President Muir, while endorsing Mr. Allman, informed the community of her intent "that we adopt the Concurrent Model for full on-campus learning . . ."</p> <p>Trustee Mossy was a member of this group and Mrs. Muir's niece is a moderator.</p> <p>On December 15th, Mr. Allman proposed agenda items, none of which were reviewed or received a staff recommendation. The item to force a return to campus on January 4th was vehemently NOT recommended by staff.</p> <p>This past weekend Principals sent the following to teachers: "as a reminder, please refrain from communicating with students or parents regarding your own personal opinions about the expanded reopening. . ."</p> <p>In plain sight, and in flagrant violation of the Brown Act, Trustees Allman, Mossy and Muir are colluding to force our teachers into a learning model that is neither viable, nor sustainable and is dangerous for the public health. On top of that, they have silenced SDUHSD employees.</p> <p>In Mr. Allman's brazen "dare" to the community to "tell it to the judge", here we are.</p> <p>By the end of Q3 our teachers could be vaccinated, and perhaps Q4 could look like some semblance of normal. However, if teachers are forced to return to unsafe, working conditions in the middle of the worst phase of this pandemic, as clearly articulated in the Petition for Writ, there will be irreparable and avoidable harm to our staff, our students and our community.</p> <p>Before you cost our community thousands of dollars in legal fees, still lose on the merits, and put the health of our community at risk in a deadly pandemic, follow the lead of surrounding Districts and change course.</p>
Heather keith	<p>My name is Heather Keith. I have a freshman at TP and a senior at CCA. My kids are so excited to go back to school, even for just one day a week. I don't think we need to talk about the science of what is right for kids. We all know that answer. We have heard doctors in these meetings tell us what's safe and that your reopening plan is safe. This is about the union fighting to hold on to their power. Please do not cave in to them. You have done everything right. You have given teachers with medical necessity a choice. Did you give that same choice to your classified employees? Did anyone care? This is purely a power play now. The union will do anything to "win" this battle. Even at the cost of our children.</p> <p>If you don't fight this, you might as well let the union make all our decisions from now on. Once they know this board will cave to litigation pressure they will use it over and over again. Please put our children first and fight this. This is why we voted in this board. We believed you would put our kids first. Our kids need you. They have no one else fighting for them. Please do the right thing and stand up to the Union for our kids. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>As the SDUHSD board and district administration prepare to bring students back on Jan 4th, I as a teacher am increasingly anxious about this decision. We still have very little in terms of PPE in our classrooms. Teachers have been given NO TIME to test out technology (2nd monitors) and figure out how the set up of their classrooms will be. Given the current stage of the pandemic, when cases are surging, hospitals are full and our ICU capacity is at 0%, when many school districts in San Diego county are either moving to remote learning or delaying opening, how are we as a district going the opposite direction? How can the Board accept the fact that many qualified teachers will be forced to choose between their health/their families health and their work? Why is it acceptable that we will lose many experienced teachers, right in the middle of the year? How will we explain the loss of academic integrity to our children and community when substitutes have to teach our many classes? All we ask for is that the Board wait until the vaccine is available to teachers, until SD is out of the purple tier and until the Covid cases go down. Let's not create complete academic chaos with a hasty decision, which is not for the good for the community.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	Stand firm to opening schools. Do what is right by ALL families, not only a few. Proper protections are in place, teachers are not being asked to come within six feet of students, and there is no harm in teaching in person - teachers are doing it across the entire United States. You haven't asked anyone to return to pre-Covid scenarios. So much has been prepared and put into place for safe in-school learning. You cannot allow bully law firms to push around the people. Please seek proper legal counsel as was suggested at the last board meeting. It seems to be needed. ALLOW STUDENTS ON CAMPUS
Heidi Bridges	<p>As both a parent and a teacher in this district, I am beyond alarmed with this board's cavalier attitude towards our best interest and lack of concern for our health and safety. With clear, specific scientific guidelines to the contrary, your continued determination to re-open our campuses on January 4th, with a full time return on the January 27th, flouts common sense, safety protocols, and the law.</p> <p>To proceed with legal action is expensive and will use money that could be spent improving the safety measures in our schools. By violating the health code and safety standards, your negligence is opening our school district up to lawsuits that will likely cost even more money. The small cohorts that have been on our campuses do not equate to schools being open. We can't expand opening when we haven't been truly open in the first place. Every other district is able to make this distinction and have either delayed opening or suspended current in-person classes. Follow the lead of all our neighboring districts and delay reopening until we are out of the Purple Tier as required by the CDPH.</p> <p>You are not only destroying our district's reputation for excellence, you are endangering lives. It is your responsibility to adhere to the law and make responsible decisions that will improve our schools, not harm them. Listen to the voices of students, parents, staff, and community. It is your job to look out for their welfare. You are failing on all counts.</p>
Anonymous	I am extremely disappointed that the School Board continues to charge forth on a path that is so destructive. It appears that now you are using valuable resources that could be used to open safely on fighting a lawsuit that the District cannot win. Your reckless disregard for the CDPH guidelines is negligent. And the lack of energy you have put forth in your reopening efforts is shocking. Teachers and Parents have been sounding the alarm loud and clear. The reopening plan is below standard. When are you going to verify the information you are being presented? When are you going to educate yourself on what other schools have done to really make their campuses safe? You have had many opportunities to listen to experts. And most importantly your Admin and Asst. Superintendents are waving a giant white flag telling you your plan is flawed. This is a serious lack of judgement on your part and you will be held liable by all for actions. Students, Teachers, Parents and the Community are all watching your every move.
Isabella Enfinger	SDHUSD hasn't had our return to school plan approved to go back Jan 4 by any epidemiologists or virus specialists. San Diego County is in the purple tier as most of California is and there is a current stay at home order for our county. The ICUs are at 0% capacity in all of Southern California and San Diego's covid case rate and related deaths have spiked higher in December than any other month in 2020. These spikes come right after the fall holidays ended and wanting teachers, school staff, and students to return right after the winter holidays end seems incredibly irresponsible and short-sighted. Making teachers have to choose between unpaid leave and their health and families's health is unfair. With my school, La Costa Canyon High School, not having a ventilation system, forcing teachers and staff to go back into the classroom (or be placed on unpaid leave) and risk their safety is not any way to say that we all appreciate the work they do for all of us everyday. It puts their lives at risk, their families' lives at risk and it does the same to students and our families.
Isabella Hirst	As an SDUHSD student, I am appalled at how our teachers are being treated. They are the backbone of the district - our education would simply not exist without them. I ask you, is losing 10-20% of your teachers, and putting many more in an unfathomably difficult position, really worth it? Realistically speaking, the schools won't remain open for long before COVID starts to spread. Opening schools and forcing teachers to come back is dangerous, potentially illegal, and demonstrates a concerning lack of empathy. Thank you.
Izzy Ster	I implore the Board to consider the following: teachers who are housing loved ones, ones who perhaps are at-risk. Teachers who are at-risk themselves. Teachers who are juggling their own classes as well as their own children's education from home. Teachers who are expecting, choosing to bring new life in light of uncertain times. Teachers who are beloved by entire campuses. Teachers who have sparked passion in hundreds and hundreds of students. Teachers who have provided support for students in their darkest hours. Teachers who have provided hours of dedication and, in the matter of months, adjusted to do so via a screen. Our teachers have relentlessly been by our side as students, no matter the time or circumstances; I would like to remind the Board that the students will return the favor. Please consider alternate options for our teachers because, put simply, the treatment towards them has been incredibly disheartening and unreflective of the student body's deep-rooted appreciation towards them. I implore you to demonstrate compassion, as our teachers have taught us to exemplify. Thank you.

NAME	Comment
James Barnhill	Our three kids at La Costa Canyon High School are struggling with distance learning. Please stay firm with your reopening plan of having the kids come back 5 days a week starting second semester. Stop the back-and-forth and the indecision and press forward with what science and doctors tell us all - that it's safe to reopen. Fight the lawsuit - don't compromise or settle!
James Wilkey	Please open up school. A lot of students are struggling heavily with depression and potential suicide. There is a lot of harm by not opening up school in terms of productivity of out students, the current state of online school is not suitable for productive and efficient learning. By opening up school there would be an increase in productivity among students who struggle with online learning and benefit from In person environment. Not to mention helping those with depression and potential suicide risks. Please help us students.
Anonymous	<p>My first thought upon seeing the UT headline on Sunday (San Dieguito Schools Plans To Reopen Next Month Despite State Rules, Challenges), was that it reads like an item of discovery in a lawsuit. As I read the article, and accounts of what transpired in the Board meetings last week, that impression was solidified. On their website, the SDCOE notes that, "As it relates to the reopening of campuses while the county is in the purple tier, the County of San Diego has taken a position concerning the definition and meaning of a "reopened school" that appears to be inconsistent with the guidance provided by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on this issue." Last week's vote doubles down on that inconsistency. If, or more realistically, when, any liability issues arising from reopening become lawsuits, I daresay the recommendations from the CDPH will be deferred to by the courts. But, that is a lot of money, hassle, and pain down the road. Why even go there when there is not a majority of students, administrators, staff, or parents that want the schools to fully reopen? With a 3-2 vote from the Board, there is barely a majority from the voting body. I watched the meetings last week in their totality, and I do not think that the eleventh-hour (literally) vote was reasonably considered, and yet the whole district is now being held hostage to a hastily cobbled-together plan that flies in the face of the science, the county of San Diego, and the CDPH. The vocal minority of a facebook group of parents is a woefully small set of constituents from whom to receive your marching orders. Please defer to the science and CDPH guidelines and protect our district from the spread of COVID, the attrition of teachers, and the exposure to liability, by revisiting your decision to fully reopen all campuses on January 27th.</p> <p>On another note, the tone and content of Allman's comments regarding the ASB representatives' reports on behalf of their campuses was disrespectful and showed an alarming disregard for them and their voices. Censure or admonishment is in order.</p> <p>SDA Parent</p>
Jasmine Stiles	<p>The elephant in the room still hasn't been discussed...how to provide equitable education to both online and in person students for P.E. I am not afraid of teaching at school...I'm just not equipped to teach both the in person students and the online students simultaneously. The rich curriculum provided to the online students is something that I had to create and has been incredibly successful thus far. Currently students that come to school must learn from a chromebook in the shade since they can't see their chromebooks in the sun. When I return January 4th, the problem that I will encounter will be the insufficient amount of shady and wi-fi locations on campus for the larger number of in person students to continue to learn from their chromebooks. Why do you ask that students need to learn from chromebooks? (No one asked this question about P.E.) I can't teach 2 different curriculums simultaneously to the in person and online students. I've tried this before when I was teaching specific activity units in-person and it is not realistic since it's difficult to give the attention to 50-53 students needs without creating an unrealistic learning environment.</p> <p>I have been teaching for over 30 years and I still love it and pour my heart and soul into teaching by creating innovative and student centered and student engaged curriculum. Ask anyone in the district about my reputation to put students first!!</p> <p>NO ONE has any idea how P.E. works with 50-53 students unless they have taught P.E. P.E. is a specialized curriculum that needs special attention to detail to make it work effectively. (By the way...comparing P.E. to zoom fitness classes and sports teams is NOT the same. I invite any board member to join my P.E. class and see how it really works and see the situation you would be putting us in with the hybrid learning model.) Please set me up with success before I come to school on January 4th. PLEASE don't open until I can be successful with both groups of students in order to be equitable.</p>

NAME	Comment
Jason Barry	<p>Thereby. Heretofore. Hereby. My comments here either proceed or follow other comments submitted that try best to sound formal and legal, without such actual basis. But the adjectives that do appropriately come to mind upon hearing the CTA has mounted legal action to fight our expanded reopening — repulsive, surreptitious, appalling.</p> <p>Hereby, I conclude the SDFA never intended to support a broad scale return to onsite teaching. There is no scenario or conditions where the teacher's Union would amicably accept that teachers need to do their jobs in-person, onsite. There always has been something that's kept them from coming back.</p> <p>I heretofore implore the SDUHSD Board of Trustees to proceed by every means necessary and with every resource available to continue implementing its expanded reopening. Because we are not merely fighting for a return to school for Q3, but for the next school year to follow.</p> <p>All school reopening plans unfold in a progression. Without the first steps, we cannot reach the next. And I hold grave concerns that our inability to muscle through this resistance NOW will dog us through summer and into the fall. Our students need school, in the myriad ways vocalized in terms of abating isolation and depression and social disengagement — and a tremendous slide in academic retention.</p> <p>If we don't change the tide for January, we will prolong the transition our students need indefinitely. And at the times in their adolescence when they need stable growth the most, we can't afford to delay more.</p> <p>Ergo, I maintain the urgency to continue our path forward with expanding the reopening of our schools as broadly and swiftly as the Board of Trustees approved in its December 15 meeting. For the student, for the restoration of this school year — as well as the next.</p>
Jason Todd Ipson, MD	<p>Dear Board and Community,</p> <p>I am trying to process what I am hearing. The board voted offered an option for students and families to stay online if they are more comfortable, as well as students to begin in class for their third semester. In addition, it said it would support distance learning teaching for any teacher with a valid medical reason. The result: The teachers and Union sue the district??? What do they actually want? To stay closed forever over a flu-like illness?</p> <p>This is a permanent stain on the district, the Union, and our teachers. CCA was ranked the #1 Public High School in California & Torrey Pines in the top #10. Do you know why? Because the families are involved and take an interest in our children. The teachers historically have been part of that, however, their actions over a virus have called that into question.</p> <p>Why do teachers not want to do their job? I don't refuse to take care of Covid patients. It is my job and helps build our society. The baggers at your grocery store do not have the luxury of not bagging your groceries. The policemen do not have the luxury of not policing. Etc. Teachers are a critical component of our society: they need to be in the classroom teaching - or they need to find another profession.</p> <p>This cannot be overstated: Our teachers are actually suing the district. The Unions aren't even pretending to care about our kids anymore. I will begin to look for options whether they be private schools or sending my family to another state so they can be educated. It may not matter to lose one strong family. But when a lot of the families that have helped make our district what it is follow suit, there will be even greater disparities of opportunity. This is not a long term solution.</p> <p>I urge the Board to stay strong. Fight to get our children back in school for in-person education, as well as option to stay home for those that are afraid or truly at risk. And break the Union if necessary.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jason Todd Ipson, MD</p>

NAME	Comment
Jen Charat	<p>For months, the SDFA has tried every avenue to work with the district to come to a reasonable solution to allow more children on campus in a safe, controlled and lawful fashion. Now, because the district won't come to a reasonable solution, it is faced with litigation.</p> <p>This lawsuit has merit. The district must follow the CDPH guidance as written. The district is only operating under the small cohorting guidance. This means it may not expand. Blaming the State or the County for having the ability to act but delaying doing so only exposes the district and each Trustee to considerable liability. School districts that don't follow a mandatory duty are not shielded from liability. It is a monumental risk to take--to try to hide behind one person at the County while defying state orders. The County Office of Education was crystal clear in its letter to you on December 17. "Whether CDPH says more or not, we are accountable to the standard set by the state." Choosing not to follow the standard set by the state is not lawful. And say there is no ruling on this case prior to January 4 and you proceed to open to all students, you will be acting in a way that later will be found to be unlawful.</p> <p>By its own admission, SDUHSD is not currently open for in-person instruction. When it approved the Expanded School Opening resolution on December 15th, stating that it "is capable of safely returning to partial and ultimately full in-person instruction," it admitted the truth: by stating it could return to partial in-person instruction, it recognizes it has not yet started to bring its general student population back for in-person instruction and therefore it is only operating under small cohorting guidance.</p> <p>The governor was clear in issuing the recent stay at home order because of uncontrolled, highest risk community transmission rates; our county is in the purple tier and the corresponding CDPH standards apply to us. Neighboring public school districts are following the CDPH guidance as written. So must we.</p>
Jennifer Daniel-Duckering	<p>We are in the midst of the worst COVID surge this State and County has seen during the pandemic. And this Board -- spurred on by Trustees Allman, Muir and Mossy -- want to put hundreds of students back on campuses and force the teachers to be there in person to teach them -- on January 4th, a mere 2 weeks away. SDUHSD is not and has not been "open" and thus you move forward with your plan while we remain in the Purple Tier. You need to give up on the meritless assertion that SDUHSD is/has been "open" for general, in-person instruction. It is not "open" merely because you have allowed small cohorts of the highest risk students to be on campus for specialized support service or to be monitored in a large room, while they participate in their DL classes, by a non-credentialed staff member. By taking this unreasonable position and ignoring the concerns of our teachers and students, you have now embroiled the District in what will undoubtedly be expensive litigation. The money the District will have to spend fighting this legal battle -- which you will ultimately lose -- is a horrendous waste of resources. You should be using those resources to ensure our campuses are ACTUALLY safe for students and teachers to return to once we are out of the Purple Tier. Moreover, the future financial and reputational harm to the District could be significant if you insist on moving forward with your illegal re-opening and a staff, teacher, or student contracts COVID on campus and dies. I suggest you make sure your D&O insurance policy covers you for intentional and/or reckless acts. Stop wasting our money and do the right thing for our teachers, students and communities. Follow the law and obey the State and County rules and WAIT until we are out safely out of the Purple Tier.</p>
Jennifer DiMase	<p>I have been following in the news that many school districts (including Oceanside, Vista, Escondido, Poway, Carlsbad) which were open for general student in-person instruction this fall have closed recently due to substitute teacher shortages and/or number of positive COVID-19 cases on campuses. Others have postponed reopening due to the community crisis and our local ICUs reaching capacity. As we officially move into the winter season, it is predicted that this situation will only worsen in the coming weeks before it gets better. Knowing that adolescents can carry and transmit the virus asymptotically, combined with the need for them to switch between up to 7 classes each day or week, returning to any in person instruction and especially full time in person instruction seems irresponsible for our community at large. For our children, I'm most concerned that returning to in person learning in this environment will result in teacher shortages and a lack of continuity of engaging instruction and learning that our schools have worked so hard to establish this year. Had we reopened during the red tier our educators would have been able to assess any needs for improvement and the readiness to further reopen during this latest wave of cases. Reopening in the purple tier goes against the CDPH guidelines and puts our community at a higher level of risk during this critical and devastating stage of the pandemic.</p>

NAME	Comment
Jennifer Lucero	We have been told continuously throughout the last board meetings that we are OPEN. Haley has made sure that this was reflected constantly. The lawsuit from the teachers union is very offensive. The schools are open and we should continue to expand our opening as already approved. This lawsuit is just another stall tactic by the union while they negotiate their political agenda. We need to continue to focus on what is best for the students who choose to go back. Again - this is a choice that should be given. If some students choose to stay home (or a teacher needs to medically stay home) - that is their option. I PLEAD WITH YOU NOT TO TAKE THE CHOICE AWAY FROM OUR KIDS WHO WANT/NEED TO GO IN PERSON. If our tax payers are directly or indirectly fighting to stay closed, they should be equally used to fight to stay open. The decision to stay open is a county/state decision and should not even be heard from by the court from the teacher's union.
Jenny Richards	My family strongly supports school reopening with safety precautions. Distance learning is failing our student and many other. Coming up on a year with zero academic progress and zero opportunity for development in social and emotional areas. Being out of the structured environment of school for so long will cause lasting damage to many. Please find a way to start opening the schools now so that it can be a process that ends with what our students need, an in person education.
Anonymous	I am concerned about the current decision to reopen schools in your district. I am a teacher in San Diego and I am worried about the widespread results this decision may have on our local community. We are close to the end of this national catastrophe with the recent release of vaccines in conjunction with proper social distancing guidelines. I encourage your district to aggressively pursue providing staff and students with avenues of receiving the vaccine with the same tenacity the majority of your board has given in the recent decision to reopen schools. Even saving one life is worth this pursuit.
Anonymous	I am a Freshman at CCA. I'm upset that the District may spend money on lawyers to open our schools at the least safe time – when we are in lockdown and in purple tier. This is unsafe and very likely illegal. Please do the right thing. Spend money on things that benefit our schools, not on lawyers. Please agree with the CA Teachers Association that you will wait until we are safely out of purple tier before you open schools.
Jessi Mortensen	<p>From CDPH: Individual school closure may be appropriate when there are multiple cases in multiple cohorts at a school or when at least 5 percent of the total number of teachers/student/staff are cases within a 14-day period. Did you know that Torrey Pines is currently at 5.6%? (88 on campus-5 positives) Why are they not shuttered? We also know that your dashboard has been woefully incorrect. Staff has received notices of positives from NOVEMBER that are still not updated. This does not give your community any hope that you are following safety measures nor that you will as Covid cases increase.</p> <p>I have grave concerns about safety and transparency. I have been told by Cindy Frazee directly that we will not be told if a student in one of our classes tests positive. The claim is that it violates HIPAA, which it does not-we get notifications for lice and pertussis and you will still be notifying those you deem "close contact". You are gaging close contact only using the minimum standard of 6', 15" which, even on the CDHP website states is not applicable in closed rooms. I was told I'd "probably be able to guess". That is not good enough, timely, nor a safety measure.</p> <p>Opening up our schools right now is not safe, nor is it legal. The claim that we are fully open is false. We have small priority groups on campus only. Even SPED students are logging in remotely to be taught in their core academic classes and electives via meet. Most teachers have not been teaching in person, only remote. Most students have been full Distance Learning not on campuses. You all know this is the reality, please stop trying to cherrypick phrasing that suits your narrative. Speaking of cherrypicking, maybe have Dr's that are qualified to speak on virology and Covid to give advice and not claim that ones that are qualified have agreed with you and positively reviewed your "plan". We know this was not true. Our students, staff, and community deserve better. Do better.</p>
Anonymous	I would never ask my students to return to a burning building during a fire- likewise, I would never lead them to disaster during a school shooting, just because someone in power told me to do so. This is a profession of split-second decisions, leadership and human connection (legitimacy, authority, trust and power are EARNED through years of proven strength of character, care for all students and reasonable behavior). Please, let's come together and be the example of patience, wisdom, calm, resilience, and creativity our students need during this temporary hardship. Ignoring the health orders and fact-driven direction provided by our State Government officials is encouraging our students to develop disregard for anything that doesn't serve their immediate needs. The abhorrent behavior of board members Muir and Allman being tolerated is a threat to everything this educational community has worked tirelessly to construct, since its inception.
Anonymous	I am a district teacher and parent of ASB students in the district. Please do not reopen schools on January 4 while in the Purple Tier. It is not safe for all parties involved as numbers are skyrocketing and we have not reached the holidays. The majority of district parents do not want their children to return. Distance Learning is going well. My students have learned new technology, time and organizational management. I miss my students and would love to see them all in my classroom when it is safe.

NAME	Comment
Jonah Rothstein	<p>We are at the peak of the pandemic thus far in Southern California. ICU capacity is at 0% -- hospitals are having to make the toughest of choices about who does and doesn't get care.</p> <p>Behavior changes are required to get this pandemic under control. As much as we may not enjoy them, they are temporary emergency steps to achieve the public health outcomes that we need.</p> <p>To parents angry about virtual learning: I won't pretend to understand how difficult this situation is for you right now. But putting your children and their teachers in harms way is certainly not the solution.</p> <p>I am an event planner and I have done extensive research on the virus by now so I say this with 110% confidence: NO MATTER WHAT PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE -- IF YOU WILLINGLY PUT PEOPLE INSIDE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY -- SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO GET SICK AND DIE.</p> <p>Let's not mince words here: You can either choose to protect yourself, your children, the faculty, or you can choose to actively put them in harms way. The choice is up to this board.</p> <p>If this body decides to proceed with this plan, students and teachers and parents who care about their kids' lives should enter into an open rebellion against this body for failing to uphold its most sacred duty-- creating a safe & healthy learning environment for our students.</p> <p>P.S. Board member Allman's comments at the last board meeting were just disgusting. He should be censured (at minimum) or, better yet, should resign from this board immediately. The students opinions should matter the MOST in this situation, not the least. Shame on Allman for his putrid rhetoric that shits on the students' views of how adults are (not) protecting their LIVES. Allman is a hack if I have ever seen one.</p>
Joshua Charat-Collins	<p>As a student of this district, the actions of the board as of late appall me. As a citizen of the United States, the actions of the board appall me. The board has not only ignored the voices of teachers, students, and parents repeatedly with respect to reopening--they have done so to such an extent that students feel their last resort is protesting in person, that teachers feel their last resort is to file suit with the district. Regardless of whether or not the board believes they can win this suit, the process will cost taxpayer dollars--dollars that could have been spent on developing a safer reopening plan. Instead of paying a lawyer's salary, the board could have invested in professional development centered on online learning for teachers, in improving the currently-inadequate ventilation systems, in providing more aid to students struggling with mental health issues. Some members of the board have blamed the teachers for their actions--know that these members stand alone in that belief. We, the united voices of this district, blame not the teachers, who are only attempting to ensure the safety of themselves, their loved ones, and we students, but the board, who is compromising this safety for a reopening plan that offers little to no improvement over the current distance learning model. Where the board's conviction that they are right comes from, we cannot understand. But we hope that the members of the board can realize that their job is to represent the voices of the district, and when so many voices stand in opposition to their actions, they cannot simply ignore these voices. Students and parents will continue to protest, teachers will continue to file suit—first as a group and then individually—until the board represents these students, parents, and teachers in their decisions. The board will deserve it, just as it deserves the suit brought by the SDFA. These are the consequences of its actions, and it must own up to them if we are to move forward.</p>
Joy Ruppert	<p>Hi, my name is Joy Ruppert. I am a concerned student member of SDUHSD. Students make up an important constituency in any school district and Board decisions most directly affect us as well as our beloved teachers. We are nothing without them, and it is devastating that some had their last classes with their students on Friday because of the difficult position the Board put them in. They have worked tirelessly to adapt their curriculum and learn the networks of online learning only for the Board of Trustees to give them an unfair ultimatum: either they risk their lives and the lives of those around them by reporting for in-person instruction or they must take an unpaid leave of absence, losing their income and health insurance benefits provided by the school. With the predicted 60 to 80 teacher taking leave in our district there is no point to talk about substitute funding when we don't know the exact number taking leave nor enough adequate substitutes to teach the curriculums that our teachers spent months preparing. These teachers know how to handle an online class, teach their curriculum online, and know how to handle technical difficulties. They cannot be replaced by mere substitutes. Why does the board not take into account their safety and the safety of their families and give them the option to teach at home? Why are we rushing a reopening plan when our county is still in purple zone and other school districts are staying closed? Until the Board becomes more transparent and accepting of our opinions, we students have been working tirelessly to protest and support our teachers. Be aware of the events happening around you and act on that awareness.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>I am an ASB student in the district. Please respect and listen to the student voice. Schools should not open in the purple tier. It is extremely unsafe and there are too many cases for schools to reopen now. Students and teachers should not return on campus when now at the height of the pandemic. Especially now that the holidays are coming it doesn't make any sense to reopen as people reunite and come together there will be more Coronavirus spreading. Distance learning has been working and is a new way of doing school which should stay like that until there is a vaccine. I want to learn from my teacher and not substitutes that were placed in the situation. I have already experienced this firsthand when my AP Spanish teacher resigned. We got a substitute who was not experienced in online teaching. This is why it should stay online because our teachers know now how to teach online, and the Subs will just be confused and will take time away from our learning to learn a new method of teaching. This will happen if the board decides that students and teachers go back on January 4th. Teachers will take leaves, as I have already experienced because they cannot take the risk.</p>
Julie Bronstein	<p>As a taxpayer in the district with 2 kids currently enrolled in schools in our district, I am here to express my dismay and concern that the SDUHSD is forging ahead with a plan to reopen on Jan. 4th, with a broad scale reopening on Jan. 27th. This is tone deaf to the fact that we are living through a pandemic and are currently experiencing a surge which has led to no ICU bed availability in the county. I do not want to see my tax dollars going to pay for a high priced law firm to defend the district in its inappropriate and illegal actions. In fact, the district has an obligation to follow the CDPH guidance as written. The district is not currently in compliance with its plan to reopen under any guidance other than the small cohorting guidance. This means it may not expand. It is our obligation to protect the health of teachers, students and the greater community by delaying our reopening plans. Why not learn from neighboring districts which have opened and then needed to close quickly thereafter due to COVID transmission? As cited in the SDUT article on 12/20, districts that were open but have suspended in-person instruction include Carlsbad Unified, Coronado Unified, Poway Unified, Escondido Elementary, Oceanside Unified and Vista Unified. Districts that have postponed reopening include San Diego Unified, San Ysidro Elementary, Sweetwater Union High, La Mesa-Spring Valley, Lemon Grove, South Bay Union and Chula Vista Elementary. Please do the right thing and postpone the reopening plan until San Diego County is out of the purple tier. This will help ensure stability for our students and teachers and will prevent the risk of losing teachers who have to go on leave due to health conditions. My kids have shared with me that they do NOT want to be taught by substitutes mid-year which will be the outcome if you proceed down this reckless path. Please take the time to ensure that all campuses are properly prepared, especially ventilation needs being fully addressed, before reopening.</p>
Anonymous	<p>As a concerned parent, health care worker, and a community member of SDUHSD. My concern is that SDUHSD will reopen beyond the small cohort guidance under which they are currently serving small numbers of students.</p> <p>The board is acting recklessly. To enact anyone to return to school against the Governor's order and while in Purple Tier is violating health code; opening up the possibility for litigation from employees and others. Any teacher or student that gets sick or dies can be cause for a lawsuit. Is this return to school under this blatant violation of orders worth taking this risk?</p> <p>The board has ruled that only teachers with a doctors' note can distance teach. However, any teacher should have the same option that students have; their options should be either to teach from their classroom or in the safety of their own environment. Because teachers don't have a choice, they have to take a leave of absence-choosing their safety over their livelihood. The district will lose qualified teachers. A (qualified?) substitute will have to plan an entire school year of lessons to take over for a teacher. (I question the new board member's motives in doing this...is he trying to take down the school districts' education quality). Parents and students have complained that school is not the same quality- this is not true for all classes and schools. My son's teachers have put in so much effort to make DL work. Let teaching remain this way. It is working. Without the current teacher's the quality of education will be subpar.</p> <p>We need to make things safe for both our students and teachers to return to school. Allow students that are suffering or struggling to return. They have that option, encourage students to act on that option. Students get choices; allow the teachers a choice as well. Teachers should teach from where they feel safest. If students need social, allow students to safely have club meetings and team practices. Give them the social they are demanding. Covid is life and death for people, so respect their safety needs.</p>

NAME	Comment
Justin Davis	<p>My name is Justin Davis and I'm a junior at Canyon Crest Academy. I would like to first stress that we are a PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT that doesn't have an infinite budget. We need to pick and choose what we spend on based on what's best for our students and teachers. The idea of spending copious amounts of money on litigation for the minority of students who want to go back seems like a foolish way to spend money. Lawyers aren't cheap, and using a relatively large sum of money to theoretically benefit a few people seems very irresponsible, especially because there is a far greater cost than benefit. We are in the purple tier for COVID restrictions, and we have a 9.3% positive rate in San Diego right now. Assuming that there are at least 10-11 people physically meeting right now, statistically, one of you has COVID and all of you are now at risk of getting it. Good job. Now imagine that on a much larger scale with even 30% of a 3000 person school going back with an insufficient distancing requirement of only 3 feet and probably questionable mask compliance. At that 9.3% rate, we would assume that, of the ~900 people going back, 84 of them have COVID. The spread in just one school would magnify out to the community, infecting and killing hundreds, if not thousands of people. Essentially what's being proposed is spending money for litigation to endanger us, our families, and our teachers. There is a reason for why we even need litigation to open up in the first place: it's not safe. The school board shouldn't be about politics and power, it should be about protecting the best interests of the school, the community, and most importantly, the students and teachers. I urge you to think of your families, loved ones, students, and teachers when you think about reopening, and the destruction that a reopening could have on their lives, and on yours.</p>
Kara Chine	<p>As a parent of 2 SDUHSD students, and a former high school teacher, I would like to speak out against the actions of the board last week in pushing through (against the recommendations of this district's teachers and administrators) an agenda of 100% attendance in school Jan 27. Not only is the decision reckless and born of impatience and a lack of understanding of the impossible nature of safe 100% attendance, but also the manner in which it was forced through, vilifying teachers and posting divisive rhetoric and attacks. The students (and majority of parents) of the district will be the first to back the teachers who have had to jump through the most challenging hoops of any educator's career, and are working tirelessly to do right by their students in a tough situation? Teachers fully appreciate what students need and are currently missing.</p> <p>But please consider what is being mandated by the board now: It is impossible for one teacher to successfully teach multiple classes of socially distanced (3 feet??) students safely, AND provide the instruction and support to those students who choose not to attend. While distance learning is not perfect, teachers have adapted and made sure students can interact with them, with each other, and get support when it is needed. If a teacher's instruction now has to be centered on a live lecture to students in classroom, my students at home are not interacting or involved.</p> <p>Lastly, I want to ask why we, as parents were surveyed multiple times about how we felt about the return to classrooms at a maximum of 25% optional scenario? How many families agreed to 25% as a possibility? How many opted for distance until Covid numbers became safe and we wouldn't be breaking state law to enhance what we are currently doing in a purple tier? Why did that EVER seem like an open door to 100%, which parents were NEVER asked about? If asked now, the district will quickly understand that the vast majority of parents are NOT on board with violating state mandates and risking the lives of their families, or their teachers' families.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I plead with you to continue to push for the kids to reopen next month! I have two sons at LCC and they are both good students and kids. However the last few months have been extra challenging with online learning, just as so many other kids have stated. My boys have lost so much motivation to do anything. We really try to limit our kids' screen time but this online learning has made that so challenging. I often walk in on my kids during their classes and they will be watching YouTube and FaceTiming with friends. They are getting good grades but it is certainly NOT because they are learning ANYTHING. Recently, we found out one of our kids had been accessing pornography which was so upsetting and totally against the values of our family. Although this could happen at any time, I believe this was because he is home all day on devices for school, bored, sad, frustrated and screens are always around! Once again, please do not change the decision to return. I have hope that my kids could be back to a classroom next month!</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>I urge you to reconsider the January 4th "reopening" of our SDUHSD schools. In the December 15th school board meeting agenda, item 10D, the district acknowledged that SDUHSD is not "open" and therefore, CANNOT "reopen" until San Diego county has been out of the purple tier for at least 14 days. Our county is nowhere near being back in the red tier. SDUHSD has an obligation to follow the CDPH guidance as written. SDUHSD is not in compliance with the CDPH guidelines and therefore, NOT considered "open" under the small cohorting rules. CDPH rules prevent districts from reopening in the purple tier even though they are serving small groups on campus.</p> <p>On top of the CDPH rules, there is clear scientific evidence that shows that opening schools while we are in the purple tier is an unsafe decision. Dr. Kim Prather of UC San Diego, world-renowned advisor to the CDC, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Senate and Congress said in an interview Tuesday that "Right now, the numbers, where they're going, you don't open a school anywhere." and "We've got to bring the numbers way down, then the schools are ready to open." Dr. Prather has also posted publicly on social media specifically pointing out that SDUHSD has insufficient safety standards, even for a one day a week reopening.</p> <p>Why is our school board and superintendent going against CDPH and scientific evidence to push open our schools and risk the health and safety of our students, community, and staff? Is the expensive litigation worth this fight? Couldn't the money that this litigation would use up be put toward our students in a more productive manner? Please do what is best for our community and do NOT push forward with the re-opening of our schools until we back in the red tier!</p>
Anonymous	<p>New cases are skyrocketing and hospitals are filling up...this is not the time to have schools undertake a massive re-opening. Per infectious disease expert Dr. Chip Schooley, "Right now, the numbers, where they're going, you don't open a school anywhere."</p>
Kerily McEvoy	<p>I am saddened to hear of yet another attempt by the teachers union to refuse to comply with the SDUHSD Board direction and disregard the educational needs of our students and our district. The board has clearly decided in favor of developing a plan to continue the opening of our schools in a SAFE and CONSTRUCTIVE manner by providing all student groups with access to our campus for in-person instruction. Our students need this. Our district needs this. Our public education system needs this.</p> <p>For the CTA and the SDFA to bring legal action against our district in an attempt to block this direction is senseless.</p> <p>1)Our schools are currently OPEN as defined by the regulating bodies of the county and the state. Our superintendent and administration has been very clear on this.</p> <p>2)Our plan is SAFE. The medical professionals have clearly explained that the school plan is safe for students AND for teachers. The data from other states and countries shows that it is safe. Our own board trustees and Associate Superintendent, HR Cindy Frazee have stated that teachers with valid medical concerns will be supported through existing HR processes including potential distance teaching options.</p> <p>I request that our board continues to fight for the educational needs of ALL our students and stand up to this Union action. We need our teachers to teach and our students to have equal educational opportunities and access to quality education as per the SDFA and CTA Mission Statements.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I urge the board to follow the CDPH guidelines and delay the reopening until our district can improve upon its safety measures with at least better air filters, a true effort to allow for appropriate social distancing, a plan for testing of students, and contact tracing that will notify all members of a classroom if someone in the room has symptoms or tests positive. Additionally, we should not even be considering reopening while the county is in the purple tier. Not only is it unsafe, it goes against the CDPH guidelines. We need a thoughtful and well planned out approach to bringing students back on campus. As we bring more people on campuses, this not only increases risks to students and teachers, but additionally to all school employees.</p>

NAME	Comment
Kimberly McSherry	<p>I've been a part of the San Dieguito community for years, as a parent of 4 students, school volunteer, and supporter, and this district has had the highest of standards in educational quality. That is one of the reasons why the board actions now have become seriously embarrassing.</p> <p>Dr. Kim Prather of UCSD is a world-renowned scientist who advises the CDC including Dr. Anthony Fauci personally, the Senate and Congress. Last week she publicly posted her outrage after reviewing the district's plans for reopening, and called out our district by name for its dangerously insufficient safety standards. She did not mince words, and our district should be on notice for attracting the attention of a scientist of this stature. New case records are being set daily. Hospitals have patients in hallways. California has activated a mass casualty plan.</p> <p>It is possible that our board is uninterested in expert scientific guidance. But please keep in mind that many of our parents are UCSD scientists themselves. Also recall that all our high schools have science departments, with science teachers holding positions that are among the most difficult jobs to fill. They know that San Dieguito's plan is woefully and dangerously inadequate.</p> <p>And now our district is facing legal action. Do the right thing as Trustees of our schools: Fiscally, legally, and ethically. Join countless other area districts and hold off on adding more students to campuses until we are out of the purple tier and our health care system can care for those who need it. It is the only responsible choice right now.</p>
Kirsten Brockbank	<p>All the science points to kids going back to school. There is no logical reason at this point for kids to not be in school. We now know how little risk there is to children from Covid and how uncommon transmission from student to teacher has been in schools where children have gone back. If some families want to keep their children home for distance learning then that is their choice, but there is no reason to force everyone to do that. Kids are suffering to one degree or another with depression, quality of learning, and anxiety. The pros of going back to school far outweigh any cons there may be. The teacher's Union does not have the children's best interests at heart and they should be fought unabashedly since they do not have the facts or science on their side. They are self serving with their own agenda that has nothing to do with the Coronavirus. On a final note, if teachers don't want to come back to in person learning then they should be free to take a leave of absence and let everyone willing get on with the education ,health, and we'll being of our children! Thank you</p>
Anonymous	<p>Members of the Board, I understand that you are meeting to discuss litigation related to the SDUHSD Re-opening plan. This litigation is the result of your failure to adequately address the serious implications of your broad re-opening plan while the county is in the purple tier. Other districts are shutting down, ICU beds are full, and our local positivity rates are climbing.</p> <p>Our teachers have indicated that they do not believe it is safe to return. Listen to them!</p> <p>The students on this board have similarly weighed in on behalf of the students they represent. Listen to them!</p> <p>Your district administrators (when you allow them to speak) do not have the ability to bring all students back 5-days a week. Listen to them!</p> <p>There simply will not be enough staff, no matter how much you pay them. And no one wants their student sitting in a gymnasium 3 feet apart with hundreds of others being supervised by a random volunteer. Or worse, the Mossy model: go to one class and then wander campus unsupervised for the remainder of the day. You have a model that is working.</p> <p>Please do not spend taxpayer money defending your unsafe and unreasonable plan. Our district has better uses for our money.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>The current reopening plan is unsafe under the stay at home order and does not follow COVID-19 safety guidelines for distancing. This premature return to in person learning is a threat to the health of our community at large. The stress on our healthcare workers and facilities in light of current transmission rates make the district plan irresponsible and dangerous.</p> <p>Please listen to your constituents. You are elected by all the voters in this district, not just parents, and your responsibility and accountability lies with and affects all of us. Do not open schools on January 4th.</p> <p>Though the board raised substitute pay, there are not enough subs available to cover the 10-20% of teachers who will take leave after 1/27. The district does not require a sub to have a teaching credential, and so honestly, instruction will basically end when those teachers leave. Even with some teachers allowed to instruct from home in January, there will not be enough subs to cover classrooms, which will lead to dangerous interactions between unmonitored students roaming around campus. Custodians and Campus Supervisors are not the solution to this problem. Our campuses are large and it would be very difficult to prevent unsafe behaviors.</p> <p>Even students in physical classrooms with teachers will be in the same distance learning model, but with masking and distancing protocols degrading the experience for all, including those at home.</p> <p>We all want things to get back to normal, but conditions now simply don't allow for it. Please re-open in a thoughtful, measured way that does not disregard the conditions in the community at large, with contingency plans for optimum safety, and that preserves academic integrity.</p> <p>Schools exist to educate, not to be a social outlet for students. Parents can organize extracurricular activities for their children that don't risk the health and safety of the community at large or degrade academic integrity for the MAJORITY of students who have chosen distance learning.</p>
Kristin Gluhak	<p>I have been working in person with students at SDUHSD sites since September. I was told to return to in-person teaching and that I was deemed essential as a part of special education. I gladly came back to campus because I knew it would be better for the students! It has been safe and effective. Why would general education teachers be allowed a different path when their impact to general education students is equally as important as my impact to special education students?!! The positive emotional connections for students and staff as well as the students' increased productivity and learning is immeasurable! We need to provide all students the choice to be back on campus!</p>
Kylie Hayase	<p>I will preface this comment by stating that am a senior at CCA. My year has been hit the absolute hardest, so trust me when I say that I'd like nothing more than for things to go "back to normal." However, I am also an educated, concerned member of the SDUHSD community. Time and time again, the board has refused to listen to the worries and opinions of SDUHSD teachers, even though the teachers have done everything in their power to be heard. It's perfectly reasonable for teachers to be scared. The current reopening plan is unsafe, forcing teachers to risk their lives and the lives of their families. And what kind of "choice" is it when you have to choose between your/your family's safety or making money to support yourself/your family? It's absolutely ridiculous that the board would even consider forcing teachers to go back to five-day-a-week in-person learning with 20+ students in a class in the middle of a pandemic. Think - the money that the district will put towards combating the concerns of their constituents could be put towards better safety measures, or resources to increase the quality of online learning (which is already close to the best it can possibly be, due mostly to the efforts of TEACHERS - not the board, not the parents, TEACHERS). If the board goes through with the current reopening plan, the quality of education in SDUHSD will drastically drop. Teachers will be forced to go on leave - not because they don't want to go back, but because they're worried about the safety of themselves, their families, and their community. Given the current situation (remember that we're currently in a WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC?), safety of everyone in the SDUHSD community should be the Board's most pressing concern. Instead, they're combating a lawsuit made by the very people who should be number one on their priority list. Listen to the voices of your constituents! Students, parents, and teachers stand against the board on this issue. That should be enough to at least give pause.</p>
La Costa Valley Parents	<p>Here's what we've found out last week: A student can get coronavirus, test positive and you will not notify anyone as long as they are six feet away. Do you have enough people to investigate this in January at 25% capacity, at 50%? These are not elementary schools- stop acting like it. You have no plans in your "safe" plan for lunch/passing periods or bathrooms. Why are you not following the CDPH guidance as written? We have friends that are treating COVID patients. Some our children's ages are coming down with this left and right. Our daughter has an athlete friend who got COVID a month ago, she still has breathing problems. Another still cannot smell after two months. Survivability is not the only metric. Doesn't quality of life matter? Have you not noticed what has happened with your "club" sports? There are infections we know of but not showing up on your dashboard because your schools are not "open," or are they? If this is all so safe, why is the district running "clubs" as sports? Does your liability insurance indemnify you for violations of health orders (personally and as an agency?). Haley name drops Dr. Prather in the last meeting, what he failed to mention was that she called the plan "crazy" and also pointed out we have inadequate safety measures for an even one day a week opening. We cannot say "we've been waiting a long time, we need a deadline." The virus doesn't care that you haven't planned or your politics.</p>

NAME	Comment
Lauren Monahan	<p>I wish I could recommend going back because I do absolutely love my students and want every good thing for them, but as a teacher in the district I am very worried about the logistics of this plan. I know of several cases at our school, with only more coming. That, paired with a rushed opening right before finals , can't help but be a recipe for disaster, and a significant hit to the academic integrity of the district.</p> <p>& I'm having a tough time figuring out the logistics of group work with kids in class & at home & with the reverberation and such it is looking like I won't be able to have them as interactive in my class anymore.</p> <p>I'm also worried about the legality of this. If vaccines are so close on the horizon why risk the significant financial hit to the district of paying lawyers & such if/when someone gets sick when we aren't following cdc guidelines & a top expert has called out our district publicly on Twitter for being reckless? That's going to be a lot of money we could be spending on kids we'd be spending on lawyers.</p> <p>Why not spend the money to get some safe extracurricular wellness activities in place so students can safely meet other kids & work with experts on working through the trauma we're all collectively experiencing. Maybe if all the adults could stop fighting so much and listening to each other more we could find ways to get the kids' needs met safely.</p>
Laurie Moselle	<p>Please give teachers and students the options of getting back into face to face learning in some capacity. It's vital to a proper education something our children deserve and must have to succeed in the future. We have proven over the past 8 months that we can still be around people and not get sick if everyone take personal responsibility for protecting themselves. This can be done. It's proven in other districts it can be done. We can educate our children and stay healthy. Thanks.</p>
Levi Gage	<p>As a concerned student, I would like to point out a few things from December 15th's board meeting that I was not impressed about.</p> <p>First off, I was very unimpressed with the medical professionals on site. Almost all of them seemed very biased towards your decision, and were not even infectious disease doctors. As pediatricians, they were speaking for the students, and not the teachers. When stating that groups of adolescents in our community are non-compliant at this time, what makes everyone think that when on school grounds, they will be? As board representatives, you may fail to protect us. With covid at an all time high right now, with icu beds in literally every hospital in our county stressed as ever, why rush? I understand that us teenagers are not at a high risk of dying, but what you have failed to consider is the health of the adults who work with us in the classroom.</p> <p>Another thing I was highly unimpressed with was Mr. Allman's rude and false remarks regarding Student School Board Representatives. First off, stating that they are just one student's voice is untrue within itself. Student representatives represent the school as a whole, and when they make claims regarding their concerns, they are speaking for the student body they represent. Before you make false and utterly disrespectful remarks to students, educate yourself on what it means to be a trustee. You do not represent me as a student. Shame on you Mr. Allman.</p> <p>So yes, I understand that I am only one student's voice, but please put public health as a top priority. Stop making teachers choose the agonizing decision on whether or not they want to get paid to expose themselves, or stay home on an unpaid leave of absence. I am all for a safe-reopening when it is time, however this is not the right moment yet. Open your minds, and wake up. Covid is real, and is worse than ever.</p>
Anonymous	<p>With regard to school reopening, can you consider reopening only after the teachers got vaccinated? In addition, that priority group also includes age 75 above. It is a big concern for students having grandparents living with them. Thanks for your consideration.</p>
Lisa Fitzpatrick	<p>Dear Board: Ask yourself this question: Who do you answer to? Is it all of your constituents or your "base?" Are you willing to reject objective, quantifiable, observable data in the community because of conspiracy theories worthy of AM radio? I am a staunch conservative, that is why I think it is ludicrous to open a school now. This is not going to help our overstressed hospitals. Are you really going to waste our tax money on a lawsuit that shouldn't even be happening? Look at the other districts, they even have real plans and are not opening until the end of Jan. There HAVE been community outbreaks at 8 schools that have opened in the county. This is not "moving the goalposts," this is being responsible members of the community and protecting and defending ALL our citizens. An oath you all swore to uphold. The question is will you ever do it?</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>I'm very disappointed the way our current educational system has been running. It's been 10 months since our children have set foot on campus. My daughter is depressed, lacks motivation, gained weight, and behind in all her subjects. She said the other day I wish that there never was COVID. I replied "remember how your math class responded in school when the teacher made the announcement schools was shutting down" (the students stood up and clapped). She replied back, "yes that's because we all thought it was only going to be a week or two, not 10 months" and she started crying uncontrollably. She has gone from an A & B student to having 15-20 missing assignments at any given time with a D, C and a few good grades. But the lack of classroom engagement, teachers cutting the class short, saying they have to go because they don't want them to be on the screen all day, but giving them ample assignments, DL has proven to be a failure to our students. My daughter is a shell of her former self, in her room most of the day. While teachers that are so afraid of the virus, that has a 99% survival rate among people under 60. And the CTA only cares about the teachers, that are hired to teacher our developing children. Instead they want to use this situation to keep our children from thriving. There have been more children that died due to suicide, then teachers dying from COVID. If anything should happen to our children in the SDHUSD school system, we will hold those, including the CTA accountable.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Did you know that our fellow community members have stories of their family dying from COVID? We teachers hear everything in the community from food insecurity, to students and families having to move or lose their homes during this difficult time. SDUHSD students and teachers are RESILIENT. Times are tough...but we need to stick together and not have DIVISIVE individuals like Mo Muir and Michael Allman break up our precious SDUHSD district. If the teachers are concerned and not feeling safe about students and staff.. LISTEN TO THEM. We hold our heads up high and deliver high quality instruction. We would LOVE to be at school returning back to normalcy and delivering our AMAZING instruction to our beloved community, but IT IS NOT SAFE TO DO SO. ICU capacity is at zero, fellow community members are testing positive and or have lost someone close to them. Childcare and elderly parent care has not been considered. Our community is more vulnerable post holiday and it is clear schools are not ready to re-open. If students and staff return with symptoms we are asked to stay home. What will students do when there are no subs to cover classes. Will that maintain our quality instruction? The answer is NO. Keep our district SAFE, STRONG and UNITED. Keep our community at peace. We love our students, staff and community. Don't turn our school into a national news story with a big mistake and keep our district respectful with integrity and a place that values creativity, TOLERANCE and INCLUSIVITY. We should work together...not against each other. There is a reason why colleges LOVE our students...because in the past we have valued the TEACHERS and COMMUNITY that make this district WONDERFUL. Please embrace the spirit of the Holidays and bring us all back when it is SAFE TO DO SO.</p>
Anonymous	<p>There is strong evidence that with basic safety measures in place that the net benefits of keeping schools open outweigh the costs of keeping students at home in a Distance Learning fashion. Schools are not a main driver of community transmission. The science and data now shows that we need to open our schools full time, in person. The concurrent teaching model seems ideal and gives families the option and opportunity to choose whether or not they are ready to go back on campus or stay home. The CDC has said school is the safest place for our kids. The isolation is unnecessary at this point and many kids are falling behind.</p> <p>I would urge the SDUHSD board of trustees and Superintendent Haley to please move forward with this as soon as possible Thank you for your time.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>As a teacher in this district for more than 20 years, I'm here to tell you that your teachers and staff members have dedicated their lives to the education of the children of this community. We are not anti-learning or anti-student. We are not trying to cause damage to these wonderful young people with whom we have been entrusted. Our commitment to our students remains strong.</p> <p>Mr. Allman, I'm not going to tell you how to run an energy company because I know nothing of that. In the same way, you know nothing about what it would take to implement the plan you cavalierly proposed. You didn't even let Bryan Marcus deliver the presentation he and our respected administrative staff prepared to explain it to you. You just bulldozed in with your demands and board majority without stopping for a moment to consider what you might not know about the situation.</p> <p>For that reason, I urge this school board to reconsider the reckless reopening plan for dates January 4th and 27th. Pump the brakes for just a few weeks, so that we can be vaccinated. I AM afraid for my health. I AM afraid for the health of my students and colleagues. I AM afraid for the health of our support staff. I AM afraid for the health and well-being of our community.</p> <p>Teachers are being judged and vilified for just wanting to follow local and state public health orders. We had to call in lawyers to get you to listen. It isn't just about us either. You have a large body of support staff. I assure you NONE of this would be possible without the support staff members who have been showing up to our schools since August.</p> <p>Teachers are showing up, too.</p> <p>We have been showing up since March to figure out online instruction, we showed up in June, July and August for stellar district provided professional development, we showed up in September, October, and November. And we are showing up now to fight this astoundingly ill-conceived plan.</p> <p>Please reconsider.</p>
Lukas Nepomuceno	<p>I think it is embarrassing that the board's decision is dangerous for teachers to the point that they have to file a lawsuit just to protect themselves. The board should be acting FOR the teachers, not AGAINST the teachers. We are the top school district, and the only school district now in the county that is still trying to reopen when it is clear that it will only jeopardize our families. I urge the board to delay the plan AT LEAST past quarter 3, January 27, to give us a chance to time our reopening better. The pressure rests on the board and not on the students or teachers. I sincerely hope the board understands this and makes the right choice.</p>
Anonymous	<p>As much as I want to go back to school, the current plan for reopening is unfair to teachers and unsafe for teachers and students. Until a better plan is made that allows teachers to teach from home and not put students at risk, I believe distance learning should continue for those with a proper learning environment.</p>
Anonymous	<p>It is disappointing that the Calif Teacher's Association is filing a lawsuit on behalf of San Dieguito Faculty Association to prevent the re-opening of schools. It seems that if the teacher's union cannot get their way, then they take it to the courts. That's an odd way of standing up for our students.</p> <p>Trustee Allman already said that he would support distance learning teaching for those teachers who have a valid medical excuse. So I wonder what's going on with the teacher's union? My concern is will the teacher's union ever want their teachers to return to in-person teaching? Or will the teacher's union push for this to be the "new normal". Unfortunately most San Dieguito UHSD families won't be able to accept this as their "new normal". How can they when they see their kids suffering and watching grades drop drastically? The families will end up removing their kids from San Dieguito UHSD and what if a large number of families pull their students? It could most certainly affect the justification of keeping certificated teachers on payroll.</p> <p>In the end, litigation is a lose-lose situation especially for the students and it will come at our expense, the taxpayers. I hope that SDFa can rethink their position and be mindful of their student's needs. Thank you.</p>

NAME	Comment
Marielle Bravo-Saltzman	<p>Continuing to push forward with a 1 day a week January 4th opening when almost all of the school districts around us have already pushed it to at least 2 weeks after returning from Winter Break due to expected covid19 spikes during that time, shows that the SDUHSD School Board is not considering the safety of it's most important stakeholders.</p> <p>Students, Staff members and the community will be put at greater risk if you continue with this plan.</p> <p>The CDC has already started giving the vaccine out to the 1a tier and K-12 school staff are in the upcoming 1b tier. Why can't you wait until teachers and staff are vaccinated, better protected and San Diego has dropped from the purple tier before opening the school. We all want to return to school with students, but we demand to do it safely for them, for us, and for the families that will be impacted.</p> <p>Listen to all of your constituents; not just those that are shouting loudly what you want to hear; and follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC, the County and the State.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am a single widow who has a daughter working in your district. I am shocked by the recent board meeting of going back to school as the ICU capacity increases and more deaths happen in our local community. Teachers, parents and students are concerned about how this board is thinking for themselves and not for the community. ICU capacity is at zero as deaths go up! This is irresponsible of this school board. If you make teachers and students go back to school, elderly people like myself will not be able to see or be with our daughters/sons. My daughter helps take care of me and I will not be able to be around my daughter until vaccines are administered. Has the board even discussed vaccine administration to our teachers? So many teachers are stressed out beyond max and scared to go back to school. The plan needs to be re-looked at in order to help our teachers and local community stay safe. How will teachers who help take care of their elderly parents respond to this sudden change? Please reconsider.</p>
Marilynn Gallaghet	<p>My name is Marilynn Gallagher. I am the parent of an LCC IB student and I am also a coach at Oak Crest Middle School. We are all negatively affected by the continuous lockdown, but I feel that the children are really losing a sense of connection as well as a sense of motivation due to the lack of options with online-only school.</p> <p>We all know that it's important to protect the vulnerable. From what I understand about the plan, SDUHSD is committed to protecting teachers and administrators from this infectious virus. The kids have been out of school since March and talking to other parents and hearing the stories of hopelessness leads me to believe we are needlessly spiraling into a place that is harming kids disproportionately. Hope is an important motivator. Kids need hope and connection to thrive. Let's allow choices that help our vulnerable children as well as our vulnerable adults.</p> <p>I am encouraged in my workplace everyday because I am in multiple pharmacies per day and have not seen one closure due to excessive COVID exposure. As we all know, pharmacies are teeming with sick people. Yet with the use of proper PPE, I have not seen one pharmacy close down since March. The best way to honor the teachers as well as providing an option for our kids is to move ahead with the plan to open schools to those who really need it.</p>
Mark C Schneyer	<p>The lawsuit from the teacher's union is the latest example of the union trying to impose its will on our school district. The union has pulled every lever of power it has to force the school district to allow all teachers to stay home, and this is just the latest lever it is trying to pull. Please recognize this as you continue to exercise your judgement on what is right for the education of our students and the safety of all involved. We elected you to represent our community, and we trust and expect that you will make the right decisions for the school district. Please stay the course as our students need options in this unprecedented time. The distance learning model is not working for a significant number of students. The safety protocols that the school has in place are supported by medical professionals, and are expected to provide a safer environment than the community at large. You have a good plan. Please fight the lawsuit and stick with your plan. Thank you for your time.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Please allow teachers to teach remotely.</p>
Martha Ratzer	<p>Please stand up to the teachers unions and defend our kids against the senseless legal action attempting to block additional students from receiving onsite instruction in January 2021. Our schools are currently open as defined by the public health orders and our kids deserve to be able to go to in-person school for the sake of their education and mental health and wellbeing.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>From a HS teacher: Each of you needs to visit schools WEEKLY to talk with on-site leadership. It was embarrassing how disconnected you were with the needs and challenges of our schools. You also owe Mr. Miller and Mr. Marcus apologies for the uninformed mandates that outright discredited the countless hours of tireless work that was already spent preparing for the once/week model.</p> <p>The last minute phone calls to some teachers on Friday evening, 12/18, allowing a few to continue working from home until Jan. 27 was done in bad faith. Equitable access for all qualifying teachers wasn't provided and there is no current plan to do so.</p> <p>What happens on 1/27? Are you still hoping to bring everyone back for 5 days/week? There have been NO contingency plans this entire year. By maintaining only one focus--getting everything back to normal, which is not logical at this time, you are blocking any progress at all. Slow and steady, step by step progress could work.</p> <p>The teachers, students, and parents should not be subjected to this INEFFECTIVE-STYLE-OF-LEADERSHIP & LACK-OF-INFORMED-GUIDANCE.</p> <p>Even your panel of doctors was not asked questions about the 5 day/week plan which was strategically placed later on the agenda.</p> <p>Our district's covid dashboard hasn't been accurately updated and it isn't informative. Have you seen S.D.Unified's?</p> <p>Our testing & tracing plans are merely lip-service. Have you seen S.D.Unified's?</p> <p>What about the 3-feet distancing plans for the classroom? According to the CDC, the new definition as of 10/21 is: "15 minutes or more of cumulative exposure to infectious individuals, within 6 feet, in a 24-hour period, such as three five-minute exposures, regardless of masking and whether the contact was inside or outdoors."</p> <p>As the scientific facts grow, does our SDUHSD plan change? No.</p> <p>Today San Diego has a 10.9% positivity rate. How can anyone think this is a good time to increase student and staff numbers on campus?</p> <p>PLEASE EDUCATE YOURSELVES. We're all upset and exhausted by online school, but what else makes sense right now for our community?</p>
Matthew DAVIS	<p>I am speaking to the Board majority and the Superintendent. Litigation is expensive. If you want to litigate your re-opening plan, show us the litigation plan/budget. If they don't exist, you're getting played for a fool or you're trying to play us for fools. Don't insult us with hand-waving that's easy to do and hard to be held to account. Last wk, no-one knew whether the District could raise substitute-teacher pay by \$70/day. Astoundingly, a former CFO advocated this in ignorance and the majority ignored a solution that is effective until COVID is under-control: invest in additional education tools/resources/facilities/support so educators can build on a distance-learning track record that is demonstrably successful and safe. The track record of questionable decision-making/conduct you've established quickly is getting noticed. How do you spend less on what's important (legitimate safety measures that protect students/schools/affected communities, distance-learning technologies, teacher retention, a measured/adaptable/data-driven return-to-school plan) and more on solving a problem you created using lawyers that bill in an hr what substitute teachers make in a day. Re-opening is bigger than you. It's not about you. You've got no kids in the District and what appear to be few, if any, substantial relationships with the teachers, staff, and administrators that make our schools great. Don't squander our money/reputation on parochial objectives you're chasing. If you want to litigate your re-opening plan, which is short on specifics, that you baited-and-switched on your medical advisors at the last Board meeting, and that ignores a thoughtful plan that was part of the last Board package and that you suppressed because it didn't align with your ideology, get out of your Kevlar bubble. Write litigation checks from your own accounts. Don't use public funds that should be used for education. Get into a densely packed classroom and teach using only resources the District provides. Don't sign up others to do the hard work/pay the bills while you sit at a safe distance.</p>
Maura Leonard	<p>We are a few months away from having the vaccine make a huge impact on the safety of our district. Why rush it? Do the right thing, and wait until our communities and hospitals get this raging virus under control. We all want to see the Classes of 2021 have the graduations & promotions they deserve – safe, healthy, and with their families, friends & school staff on campus cheering them on!</p>
Melissa Sterrett Baron	<p>Thank you for your commitment to in person learning and the commitment to launching 1 day per week in January. Many students are suffering emotionally and academically. We cannot afford to wait any longer to reopen.</p>
Merilee Andrus	<p>Hello. Thanks for your valiant service. I'm writing to you on behalf of my husband and my 2 kids in this district. I have a senior at LCC and a freshman at SDA. They are ready to return to campus on January 4th. My freshman son has never set foot on SDA campus. His first day of high school was taken from him. He's hopeful that the board will honor this date for opening, so he can start to feel like he is part of his new school, not a box on a screen. And my senior at LCC wants her special year to begin in person, even if it is only 1 day, to start. Please please let them keep this small step towards re-opening fully. They have waited patiently, and as the school year slips away, they get more and more lonely, passive and unmotivated! It's heartbreaking to watch. They are committed to mask wearing and distancing. They are good kids. Let's please TRY this plan, already in place, and give them hope. Thanks sincerely for your time and attention.</p>

NAME	Comment
michele macosky	<p>Why would SDUHSD choose to spend money litigating to gather people on campus during the height of the pandemic? As a taxpayer, I want to see the attorney's proposed legal budget and know what it NOT being funded to pay for this. As a parent, I no longer believe that the District is putting an emphasis on my children's safety. Other Districts are waiting and delaying on campus instruction – ours is more than doubling down and now potentially litigating to be a lone district opening during a pandemic lockdown. What is the potential liability if you call back staff and it's determined to not have been legal to reopen? Do you still have insurance for operating unlawfully? Can employees sue the District for damages like lost wages when they refuse to come back in protest over an unlawful employer order to do so? Are you breaching the MOU and agreements with your teachers? For employees who do return, do you lose workers compensation insurance for work acquired COVID if you opened against CDPH guidance? What about your general liability insurance – are you covered when operating unlawfully? You have been expressly told by SD County Office of Education that you have to follow CDPH guidance and your agreements with SDFC also requires you to follow CDPH guidance. In his December 17th letter to superintendents, Dr. Gothold of the SD County of Education stated "The County of San Diego has offered a local standard that appears to be inconsistent with the position taken by CDPH." Are you really going to take all these serious health, safety, legal and financial risks for a few weeks of school at the height of the pandemic when our ICU capacity is at zero? Follow the law and health orders. Wait to reopen schools until after we are safely out of purple tier as mandated by CPDH.</p>
Anonymous	<p>This lawsuit really takes the cake. Parents are seeing the teacher's union for what they really are: selfish. What happens if SDUHSD remains distance learning for the rest of this year? What about next year? Is the teacher's union going to allow SDUHSD to re-open then? I doubt it. Well, what happens when parent's get tired of waiting and watching their kids fail, go deeper into depression or worse take their own lives. Parent's have to do what's best for their kids and if it means pulling them out of SDUHSD, they will. SDFC if your goal is to reduce the number of students at SDUHSD you might be well on your way to accomplishing this! But what if a large percentage of students leave, will there be a need for keeping all teachers on staff or will SDUHSD have to start laying off teachers?</p>
Molly Schneider	<p>Please promote the common good. Model responsible community behavior by adhering to basic CDPH guidelines. Work towards a safe reopening with adding protocols such as UCSD's return to learn. Allow our qualified teachers to continue to teach our district students rather than try to piecemeal together education by whoever will show up to volunteer to make up for teacher attrition due to lack of flexibility. Spending taxpayer money on litigation to make up for poor school board decision making is taking money away from our students' education. Our amazing local ER and ICU doctors are saying, "Be patient, do your part," and are begging us to not gather for the holidays. And, yet, SDUHSD wants to pursue opening now?! What vacuum, narrow thinking. Rise above short sighted goals and look at long term, realistic plans that promote our common good and public health for all.</p>
Anonymous	<p>The decision made at the 12/15/2020 board meeting regarding the expanded reopening plan motioned by Mr. Allman and Ms. Mossey appears to be negligence and abuse of power.</p> <p>The repeated requests to share the reviews and recommendations to the district's safety plan in writing by appropriate experts who have the qualifications to handle the matter have been ignored. Instead, Mr. Allman relied on the recommendations of pediatricians which contradict the statement of Dr. Prather, an advisor to Dr. Fauci.</p> <p>The concern of the SDUHSD Human Resources Chief regarding the already-known shortage of substitutes to cover the 72 after the last board meeting but still the increasing number of teachers who have been requesting leave was shut down by Ms. Muir and ignored.</p> <p>Many parents and students expressed their concerns and requested postponing the reopening for the given reasons and under the current conditions of the pandemic, yet, again, they were minimized by Mr. Allman and ultimately ignored.</p> <p>Now, we have a lawsuit on our hands. I demand as a taxpayer an answer: "Why should we have to pay for the consequences of some board members' reckless and irresponsible use of decision-making power while they have been ignoring the concerns of many which align with the SDFC's arguments?". That money should be spent to improve the resources for the students to survive academically and emotionally through the pandemic, while still prioritizing the safety of teachers and students.</p> <p>The board members were elected and the superintendent was hired to protect our children's best interests and their right to education. Mr. Allman, Ms. Mossey, Ms. Muir, and Mr. Halev, can you still call this a school without teachers, teaching, and learning?</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>I have repeatedly heard the mantra that SDUHSD will reopen schools when it is safe for all stakeholders. However, as a Health Technician in the district, I feel that concerns for our health and safety have been largely ignored. If a student becomes ill, they will be sent to the Health Office. We have direct contact caring for sick students but I have yet to hear a single instance when our safety has ever been mentioned. Further, to reopen schools on January 4th, 2021 is unconscionable. Even in the best of times, students return to school after the two week Winter Break with colds or flu. To choose the date of January 4th in this climate of uncertainty about the Covid virus lacks any common sense. I am not against reopening but for the safety of all, please consider delaying reopening at this time.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Schools need to reopen January 4th for one day like promised to kids and full time January 27th! Stop living and portraying fear on the kids? How many teachers in San Diego have died of covid in the classroom and how many kids have taken their own lives with these lockdowns! Stop playing politics with our kids lives. Teachers will be totally safe with their mask and shields around them. This is ridiculous with a virus that has 99% survival rate but kids are suffering 100%!! If teachers are leaving their house to grocery shop, travel they can go to school in person and teach!</p>
Anonymous	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It's the apex of the pandemic right now. More people are dying per day than in 9/11. Our local ICUs are filling up rapidly. There is a vaccine on the way shortly. And NOW is when you are going to open up???? Now???? Makes zero sense. Also, I'm pretty sure it's illegal in our current tier. I'll be livid if my tax dollars go to the lawyers you'll inevitably have to hire for being this reckless instead of to the education of children. 2. If more people die because of your opening (not just from COVID, but from too-full hospitals and overloaded staff), don't you think the teens will hate you later? They're not narcissists, are they? They may not fully understand the ramifications, but you should. If they are clearly responsible for increased deaths in the community it will have long-term psychological ramifications on those who are not narcissistic or sociopathic. 3. Stop blaming teachers. I'm on Nextdoor and wow. My mom would've washed my mouth out with soap if I ever talked about the hard-working men and women who care for our children like that. And some of the people speaking are the parents of kids those teachers are currently teaching. Wow. That's...just wow. The moral fiber of society certainly is crumbling. Or at least it is on Nextdoor. 4. I don't have kids in the district, but I am a voter and taxpayer and I care about COVID so I started watching the meetings. These are an embarrassment. How do we expect the kids to be kind moral human beings with respect and manners if we are not (see point above as well). 5. As I've been watching these meetings I keep seeing kids begging to talk about how racist this district is and how they are being deeply psychologically harmed by it. Why aren't you allowing them to speak? You keep saying you want to open up because you care about the emotional state of kids, but you don't. It's obvious. If you cared, you'd listen to these kids. & You'd think about the psychological ramifications of community spread. What if a kid kills his grandparent or parent? Have you thought about that one?
Anonymous	<p>It's easy, the case centers on the boards 'reopening plan'. By the board stating it could return to partial (and then full) in-person instruction, SDUHSD admits the truth — it has not yet started to bring its general student population back for in-person instruction.</p> <p>The fourth paragraph of the resolution states "the District is capable of safely returning to partial and ultimately full in-person instruction."</p> <p>"In general, state guidance says schools can't reopen for instruction during the purple tier if a school has only been offering in-person support to select small groups of students, which is the case for San Dieguito."</p> <p>It's over. .</p> <p>Mr. Allman, Mrs. Muir, and Mrs. Mossey, please stop building walls with your own smoke and mirrors, and work on building bridges for our students to have the education that they deserve. Please stop waisting our time and money. Please do it safely and by following the rules. Maybe a good start could be, teaching yourselves how school systems are governed, funded, and operated to ensure fair teaching and learning and safety for all.</p>

NAME	Comment
Oliver Charat-Collins	<p>The lawsuit filed earlier this week is just further proof that the plan being implemented by the board of trustees to bring students and teachers back to campus is unlawful, unsafe, and ill-advised. Many doctors, including Dr. Prather at UCSD, have said that the plan put forward does not adhere to the state guidelines and that the safety measures included are not sufficient to protect teachers, staff, and students. Despite the distance learning-option that has been extended to students in the wake of this large spike of both cases and deaths, no such plan has been extended to teachers, a portion of the population significantly affected by a return to school plan. Thus, for the reasons listed above, the lawsuit filed by the teacher's union has merit, and if the board decides to fight it, they will be spending tax dollars that are supposed to improve my education on trying to ignore the concerns of the teachers. Our teachers are the core of the district, and without them we wouldn't be as successful and as well thought of as we are. I hope that the board chooses to reconsider this reopening plan, and instead elects to consider every concern put before them. Through countless public comments such as this one, teachers and students have tried to voice their concerns, yet the board has refused to take them into account. Through this lawsuit, I hope the teachers' concerns are heard, and that the board finally recognizes that the plan they have created is not safe, legal, or worth defending with tax dollars meant to improve my education.</p>
Patricia Lee	<p>I was deeply disappointed when I learned about the lawsuit CTA filed against our district. So disappointed that the Board and Superintendent Haley disregarded valid concerns that parents, students, and teachers raised about reopening in January while case numbers are surging. Disappointed that there is such breakdown in communication and lack of trust between you and the teachers. You are the leaders. It is your responsibility to ask yourselves why your teachers and staff do not trust you to reopen schools safely and responsibly, and determine how to remedy that. San Diego Unified, San Ysidro Elementary, Sweetwater Union High, La Mesa-Spring Valley, Lemon Grove, South Bay Union and Chula Vista Elementary have all delayed reopening. Carlsbad Unified, Coronado Unified, Poway Unified, Escondido Elementary, Oceanside Unified and Vista Unified have decided to revert back to distance learning. Even private schools such as Francis Parker, Bishops, La Jolla Country Day, Cambridge, and Pacific Ridge are reverting to 100% distance learning for the first 1-2 weeks of January. All have acknowledged the surge in COVID cases, paid attention to what happened after Thanksgiving, and are heeding the advice of actual public health experts. These are schools with months of experience with in person learning, implementing and evaluating their safety protocols, and working out all the kinks. Why would our District be so reckless and cavalier to start a new hybrid model on Jan 4 when so many others decided to do the exact opposite? It is highly risky and irresponsible. Please do not waste taxpayer dollars fighting this lawsuit. Please use our resources to go above and beyond with safety measures and open when case numbers are trending down, not up. Use the money to support students who are struggling with distance learning. Use the money to restore confidence and trust in our district. Please follow the lead of other districts and private schools, and delay the reopening on Jan 4. Thank you.</p>
Paul Pullin	<p>It is appalling that the situation has degraded to a union lawsuit. We are in this situation as a result of the district administration shirking its duties over the summer and fall. We heard repeated excuses why the district could not work towards a staged opening. We heard excuses such as liability issues, with the superintendent neglecting to mention that his assistant superintendent chaired the committee that had already decided that the district was covered, or refusing to accept what "when practicable" meant. During this time the union insisted that its members should be allowed to teach from home, unlike other local districts. Despite reports of teachers going on trips or conducting very brief classes, neither the union nor the principals corrected this issue. When teachers were ordered back on campus into empty classrooms, the union fought it. Instead of saying it needed to protect members who had health issues, a very valid issue, it just said teachers didn't agree to go back. When the virus data was low enough for other districts to go back, there was no movement forward. Only now is the union citing data. While it's understandable that teachers are concerned about going back at this time, it's very hard for parents and students to have sympathy when they were ignored all summer and fall. While many teachers are working hard from their classrooms, the few that are taking advantage of the situation make the entire group look bad. Instead of correcting the issues with the few teachers who aren't doing their jobs and trying to work towards some type of situation that is acceptable to both teachers and parents, the union fights everything. The union needs to remember that it represents all teachers and its constant resistance to working with parents and students to move forward reflects poorly on those high quality teachers who they claim to represent. The district likes to brag that it is the #1 district in the county, but this situation is an embarrassment to both the district and its teachers and will reflect poorly on their reputation for years to come.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I would encourage the board to pursue a compromise with teachers instead of spending taxpayer money on litigation, for a delay in reopening of just a matter of weeks. The vaccine is on its way, and teachers are likely to be vaccinated by Q4. How about investing those funds instead on better safety for the classrooms, that would encourage more teachers to return? I am still puzzled as to why the board refuses to pursue this simpler solution that would allow us to keep our teachers. The violation of CDPH guidance, I would imagine, would not work in your favor and could end up opening the district up to further lawsuits. Other public districts are following CDPH guidance; what makes us think that we shouldn't?</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>I am a senior at CCA, and while I miss my senior year, I believe that going back to school in-person with the current plan is unsafe, reckless, and wrong, to both students and teachers. Forcing teachers to go back to school has proven to be disastrous, as we are quickly losing our teachers and therefore losing our education. The lack of testing, the 3-ft distancing, and enclosed classrooms is worrisome, and it's extremely illogical to think that we are reopening right before vaccine distribution. This is a deadly disease. Our lives and our teachers' lives mean more than this.</p> <p>While I am against the in-person plan, I am especially taken aback by the comments made by Mr. Allman about the value of student voices. Mr. Allman's passion does not excuse his words nor his actions, which affect us the most. It is appalling that a man who represents and makes decisions for 13,000 students does not think that our opinions matter, and as a student I do not feel comfortable with a board that does not care about my point of view.</p> <p>Our voices matter. Our teachers matter. Please act as such.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
R Gupta	<p>More money spent on lawyers because of the idea to play politics over common sense. This is fiscal responsibility? We want to open the schools, but Jan.4th is insanity. Imagine, the first day of school for the year while the pandemic is worse than ever. Come down off your high horses and look at what is happening in this community before you look like the wrong side of the horses. One thing Haley has proven in every district is he spends mountains of money on lawyers. More than \$230k in his last district in 9 months. Look up how much was spent in St. Helena. Are you prepared to spend even more money on further litigation by violating the health code? Will the insurance cover that or will we be faced with tax assessments to cover it? Haley will be long gone retired in the wine country while we pay for poor leadership. Your plan is a sham- one meter apart with mixed cohorts! No cleaning rooms between classes! No plans for bathrooms/passing periods or lunch! A specious reopening plan- not safe. Instead of trying to spend so much money to make your lack of planning happen, stop being so arrogant if that's possible and make a real plan happen. Calling your district "open" is a new low for Haley and if any of you have any semblance of sanity, hopefully one of his last here.</p>
Rebecca Archibald	<p>I implore you as a parent and educator to take the steps necessary to open schools. The adverse consequences are so clear in our home with 3 middle school/high schoolers. And as an academic tutor I have seen it with so many more students. Students are disengaging, socially and academically, and losing motivation. The high achievers have good grades but are losing out on rich academic experiences, those for whom school doesn't come easy, aren't naturally motivated or don't have home support are paying the biggest price. It is essential that we intervene and stand up for these children. These are vital years of their lives that can set them on a course. The video game, Netflix, online shopping, and social media pull is so strong and is hijacking their education. Please. Please. Stand up for these children, for their brains, for their social and emotional development. Please let them go back to school. Every other state is doing it. AND other countries.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am a student at CCA and urge the school board not to have the schools reopen until we are out of the purple tier. I am concerned about the health of my community and feel that teachers should be allowed to telework until there is less community spread. This is my 1st year taking AP courses and having substitute teachers who are not qualified to teach the subject will not set me up for success on my AP exams.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I've been teaching in this district for 22 years, and I've never witnessed a Board majority with such disregard for the well-being of students, teachers, and staff. Like all teachers, I WANT to be back in the classroom with my students. I can't wait for that day. But not at ANY cost. I want be confident that I can keep the integrity of instruction, provide equitable access to all of my students, and keep my students safe. At this point, I can't guarantee that I can do any of that.</p> <p>I'm horrified that students and a teacher will be in a room with inadequate ventilation. I have a 950 square foot classroom with ONE HEPA filter designed for a 350 foot space. I'll be in a classroom with my students in these poor ventilation conditions for 80 minutes at a time. Dr. Kim Prather thinks our plan to go back is CRAZY.</p> <p>The most mind boggling of the whole plan to me is that, should a student get COVID, the ONLY people who will be notified in my classroom are the students sitting within 6 feet of that student. Please explain to me why the whole class, including the teacher, will not be quarantined. This is a major concern as cases continue to rise and our hospitals are getting more strained each day.</p> <p>Please listen to the experts - the REAL medical experts, teachers (experts in curriculum in instruction), administrators, and district office staff. These experts are telling you that it is NOT in the best interest of students or staff to go back at the peak of this pandemic. The administrators are telling you that the model you voted on is not sustainable. Please listen.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>Dear Board members,</p> <p>This is Geoffrey Duan's mum. Geoffrey has started his 9th grade this past fall at CCA. Even with the remote learning method, he still benefits a lot from seasoned teachers such as Joe Shea. I heard from Geoffrey that his math teacher Joe considers resigning due the policy of not being able to teach remotely starting January.</p> <p>With the recent surge of Covid 19, we hear more stories of many friends' parents hospitalized. The probability of catching the virus is definitely much higher than in the summer time. If we were not able to open for in class sessions in November safely, what makes us it safer NOW to reopen in the midst of worsen situation?</p> <p>Keeping our qualified teachers are critical for the success of students learning experience. The students may choose to go back to in-person learning. However without enough qualified teachers to teach, how can they learn? We all have experienced the limitation with substitute teachers in the middle school and the primary school. High school curriculum are more advanced and good teaching and coaching skills will be a great plus in helping students absorb the knowledge effectively.</p> <p>I strongly request the board to allow teachers to teach remotely if needed.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p>
Anonymous	<p>It is obvious that SDUHSD campuses have only been open to small cohorts and therefore fully reopening, even in a hybrid model, while still in the Purple Tier, would violate state law. Please do not waste District resources, time and money pursuing this doomed plan to reopen. While the "we're open because I said so model," might work temporarily to satisfy those with political agendas, it will not hold up in a court of law. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>We have a freshman, sophomore and junior at LCC who need to go back to 5 days a week on campus learning. Be consistent thru your decision making and fight thru this lawsuit because it's best for the majority of students. Remember!!! ...this is just giving us a choice. Those who want to stay home continue to have that option. Those of us that want to go back, need to go back! Thank you!</p>
Anonymous	<p>Trustees, before you sit to talk to lawyers, 3 things to ponder.</p> <p>First – Why are you hiring a lawyer? You only need a lawyer if you wish to spend money to prevent the relief requested. The lawsuit asks for an order stopping the return of students to campuses until the County has been out of the Purple Tier for 14 days. You only need a lawyer if you believe returning more kids (who cannot return now for special help) is so important that it is worth taking books away from future students. Hire a lawyer – less books. Every dollar spent on lawyers is a dollar that cannot be spent on books, computers, MERV 13 HVAC upgrades, hand-washing stations, or comfortable places to sit on the grassy meadow.</p> <p>Second – How much will it cost? SDUHSD will spend \$40K to \$60K on lawyers to defend this lawsuit between now and January 27th. Mark my words. If the lawyer tells you it will cost less than \$40,000, they are lying. Do not hire them. So only hire a lawyer if you believe – as a Trustee – that this would be \$50K well spent. Hint – it's not.</p> <p>Third – what is the chance the District will win? At his first meeting, Trustee Allman said that the value of the input of student reps was VERY NEAR ZERO. THUNDERBOLT OF TRUTH #1. Then Trustee Allman said THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER and the student reps were JUST KIDS. THUNDERBOLT OF TRUTH #2. Trustee Allman, the District exists for these kids. These kids are our daughters and sons, our godsons and goddaughters, our friends – they are the future of our community, our country and our world. How dare you devalue their voice – your job is to serve them. But Trustee Allman's statement contains a kernel of truth – VERY – NEAR – ZERO – describes the District's chances of winning the suit. If the lawyer tells you the District has more than a 25 percent chance of winning, they are lying. Do not hire them.</p> <p>If you vote to hire and pay a lawyer \$50K for a less than 25 percent chance of returning more kids back to campus for 3 days (1 day/week for 3 weeks), then you are asking to be recalled. It's insane. Do not.</p>

NAME	Comment
Robyne Ruterbusch	<p>We are a retired military family with two children in the SDUHSD district, a senior and a 7th grader. Our senior has attended six different schools in 12 years. When planning our move back to San Diego in 2015, we flew all the way from Japan specifically to allow our then-rising 7th grader to tour schools and find the best fit. We looked at SDUHSD, Poway, and Coronado districts, select public and charter schools in SDUSD, and private schools. He chose SDUHSD for several reasons, including the rigorous course offerings and empathy-centered attitude of administrators and teachers.</p> <p>We have been thrilled with his choice and are even more impressed after six years of top-notch teachers, administrators, and staff. The quality of education is unparalleled—we have plenty to compare it with. When my son needed logistical and emotional support for gender transition, Oak Crest and CCA bent over backwards to help make the process seamless. The kids and teachers have always been accepting and affirming. This is a sign that the teachers and administrators are doing something right.</p> <p>Now that my son is a senior and has just completed the college application process with several acceptances already, I can confirm that graduating from a SDUHSD school DOES provide tremendous advantages. Having highly credentialed teachers leading AP classes ensures strong scores on AP tests, which means even more now that the ACT and SAT are falling out of favor. Most importantly, great teacher recommendations are key—long-term relationships matter.</p> <p>For all these reasons, it is critical that the SDUHSD trustees follow safety guidelines and the law to protect and retain our amazing teachers. They are our treasure and THE reason that this district ranks so highly. Forcing them out due to an unsafe and illegal school opening will not only draw expensive litigation, it will destroy the college acceptance advantages that SDUHSD provides now. Are the SDUHSD trustees really thinking about what's best for our students in the long run, or are a few pushing a more insidious agenda to harm the district?</p>
Ronette Yuomans	<p>How tragic that community members, district staff and students have been speaking out, meeting after meeting, about the reckless decision by this Board to begin reopening on Jan 4—and you haven't listened to us. Now you are faced with an injunction.</p> <p>La Mesa-Spring Valley School District has decided that their schools are not permitted to open for hybrid learning until the county is out of the purple tier. They and San Diego Unified understand that the California Dept of Public Health rules prevent them from reopening in the purple tier even though they are serving small groups on campus.</p> <p>The Laguna Beach District had reopened classes for students with disabilities and English Learners, but now understands they cannot begin in-person learning, again, a decision consistent with the CDPH rules.</p> <p>And today, L.A. Unified Superintendent Beutner announced the school district will also not reopen campuses until community health conditions improve significantly. In fact, he cited data that, Over the past week, 5% of adults — who did not report any exposure or symptoms — tested positive, and close to 10% of children coming in to school-based campus coronavirus testing sites are positive for the virus.</p> <p>Are you now willing to accept that we will not be out of the purple tier by Jan 4? Are you now ready to listen to us? Do not ask students and teachers to report to their schools in January, for the sake of public health, for the sake of our children, and the health of all school staff, without whom the schools would not function.</p>

NAME	Comment
Roxana Morris	<p>Hi, my name is Roxana Morris. I am a high school senior at Canyon Crest Academy concerned for the health and safety of my SDUHSD staff and peers. For months I have seen teachers do everything in their power to have their needs heard by the Board, and for months I have seen this effort demeaned, disrespected, or outright ignored.</p> <p>The Board, parents, and students alike must realize our faculty is not expendable or interchangeable. We must allow our faculty the choice to remain within the distanced learning framework as we do our students; our faculty's health is of the same importance as our students. The current reopening plan forces teachers to make an unimaginably painful decision: to risk the health of themselves, their loved ones, colleagues, and students, or face unpaid, uninsured leave with no opportunity for other employment.</p> <p>This. Is. Not. Fair.</p> <p>This is not fair to us, the students, who will be greeted with an understaffed campus filled with strangers acting as substitutes for teachers forced to go on unpaid leave. This is not fair to us, the students, whose nationally recognized academic talent and reputation will be tainted by unqualified or unfamiliar substitutes and proctors due to the callousness of the Board.</p> <p>Lastly, this is not fair to our beloved and admirable faculty who do not get the same choice, as we, the students, of staying home or going back.</p> <p>Again, faculty did not get a choice. They must. It is not too late.</p> <p>The current reopening plan goes against the guidance of the San Diego Faculty Association (SDFA), Dr. Kim Prather (advisor to Dr. Fauci, Director of the CDC), and a large portion of the SDUHSD community. If we are to reopen, I urge the Board to push back the reopening date until we are out of the purple tier -- the most restrictive and dangerous COVID-19 sector -- to account for the health and safety of BOTH faculty and students. I urge the Board to listen to our faculty, who, <u>alongside our students, will be the ones most affected by the reopening.</u> Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Hello, my name is xxx, and I am a concerned student of SDUHSD. Along with several students of the district and the San Diego Faculty Association, I am outraged at the decision of the board to reopen schools starting January 4th due to the injustice it poses to teachers. Accordingly, the SDFA has filed a lawsuit against the board. The district's decision to fight this lawsuit will cost parents and members of the district thousands of dollars that could have been spent on preparing our schools for reopening once everyone has been vaccinated. Thank you for considering my statement.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am a sophomore at SDA. Two of my teachers said goodbye to our classes on the Friday before break. When we come back, we will not see them. Going back to school prematurely will not benefit students. I have not been "having sleepovers" as the doctor said. I am not selfish, and neither are my teachers. They have been working relentlessly to make online learning the best it can be. To say they are lazy and selfish is undermining the hours they spend working to help students. Student opinions matter- and student opinions say we do not feel safe and we care about our teachers.</p>

NAME	Comment
Scott Huntley	<p>Much of the Board's conversation this Fall focused on the health and safety protocols of returning students to the classroom, and not what a day in the life of those students will look like when they are actually in my classroom.</p> <p>Health protocols were established that do not require all students to wear masks, maintain 6ft of social distance, or have their temperatures checked upon entering school. For the past 2 weeks my wife and I were prohibited from being on our school campuses due to close-contact quarantine measures. If this had occurred next month, it would have required a substitute to sit with my students, the scarcity of which has caused other districts to halt in-person instruction.</p> <p>Our site's policy for notification of positive cases that seems Orwellian. If I am teaching and one of my students tests positive, my students will not be notified unless we can prove that we were within 6ft. for 15 minutes. Yet we will not be aware if we were in such close proximity unless we are notified of a specific positive case that was in our classroom. If a student is absent one day, I have to examine my seating chart, reconstruct all the movements of myself and students around the classroom for that specific day, and feel reasonably assured that we are safe. But what about when students congregate around campus freely, and are not mandated to be wearing masks? What about during lunch when they are allowed to cram into cars and drive off campus to purchase food. How will protective measures be enforced? How will contact tracing and notifications be conducted? What type of example does this set for good community behavior and responsibility when we are not even modeling the best practices when students are on our campuses?</p> <p>I am not afraid to return to the classroom. I am concerned by those who are pushing forward in spite of the best advice from educators and health professionals urging caution. We know instruction will be greatly inferior to the current Distance Learning model. My experience makes 100% certain of that.</p>
SDUHSD Employee	<p>Dear Public- forget the board, and the superintendent. They aren't telling you what you need to know. This is a major disruption waiting for a moment to happen. We are not ready to open on Jan. 4th at 25%. We've been getting the obligatory emails about infections among staff and students and we are barely "open." What will happen at capacity? If people oppose this "plan" it's because they know about it, it isn't politics, it's public safety, and that includes the community at large. This is not going to be a magic carpet ride back to March for the way things were by merely opening the gates. The lack of detail in planning and staffing is astonishing. There's no consistency between schools because DR. Haley punted back to the principals. We've been told "please refrain from communicating with students or parents regarding your own personal opinions about the expanded reopening." What if our own friends or neighbors ask us? What if people ask us what we are doing with our own kids? Since when did we give up our first amendment rights? When are you going to tell the public that they will receive more notice of whooping cough on campus than coronavirus? The smoke and mirrors after months is getting tiring- get down to business and open the schools but do it properly and at the right time.</p>
Sduhsd teacher	<p>You can not pretend that our county is not under attack by covid, the evidence is clearly documented in the live updated county resources. At 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020 San Diego County public health officials have reported 2,509 COVID-19 infections and 27 additional deaths, bringing the county's totals to 122,972 cases and 1,280 fatalities.</p> <p>The top four-highest daily cases have all occurred in the past week, with Wednesday's 2,807 cases and Thursday's 2,604. A jump of 46 hospitalizations Friday set a record with 1,218 COVID-19- positive patients hospitalized locally. An additional 305 COVID-19 patients are in ICUs — also a record. This week alone there have been 15 reported NEW cases in our district schools and that is before you have opened (we are not open under definition currently) our campuses to all students and teachers who return. This cannot possibly be legal under our current blue tier and its unconscionable that you can turn a blind eye to the devastation that you WILL create with your current decision. Not one person will have a "Happy Holiday " because we are terrified of the situation you have placed our community in.</p> <p>Reverse your vote and postpone until it is safe.</p>
Seth Levine	<p>SDUHSD stand alone with its continued pushed reopening as the only district to ignore the science and the welfare of its students, staff, and community, that is why the CTA had no other recourse but to bring this lawsuit. The reopening planning has been flawed since the start with no transparency, no inclusion of key stakeholders, and an avoidance of experts (in ID and aerosol spread) who have made themselves available to help with reopening planning and to review plans. Please use this lawsuit as a chance to engage with your faculty who work tirelessly for our students and our community and have been ignored and belittled during this pandemic. There is no need to rush this reopening and harm are schools and community when vaccines for all teachers are likely available in the next few months making it much easier to have a true FULL reopening that is SAFE.</p>
Shane Baum	<p>As a high school student, I am deeply concerned with the current reopening plan. With so much push-back from teachers and students, I advise the Board to reevaluate their decision to bring students to campus days after winter break. With teacher lives at risk, immuno-compromised or not, please consider the voices of the students - we are not valued "near zero."</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	I implore you not to capitulate to the demands of the Union. Our kids have been through a seesawing of decisions and we need to show the union that the kids are our priority! The union never backed a plan to go back, and don't be fooled, no matter what tier we are in, they will always find an excuse as to why we can't go back. We are technically open and providing services to students outside the Cohorting Guidance definition. The filing of an injunction is just another delay tactic. Please hold your ground and stand firm in the interest of our students! Thank you.
Anonymous	Dear SDUHSD School Board, I am disturbed by your plan to have students back on campus and have lost confidence in the School Board to make the right choices for our students and staff members. First of all, instead of consulting an expert epidemiologist, our board consults health providers that hold personal interests in getting their kids physically back into our schools. Obviously, their guidance is tainted by their desire to open up the schools for their children. Secondly, we have a majority of board members that don't care about our health and safety, and who are totally out of touch with what it takes to make a classroom run successfully during this pandemic. For example, one board member believes we should go back to the same model we had pre-pandemic. Another one thinks we should increase the pay of subs that don't exist in the numbers we need them, and who have no idea how to deliver instruction under this new DL high breed model. Thirdly, we have another member talking about teaching outdoors and having kids hanging out on "grassy knolls" unattended during the wintertime. All of these ideas will make delivering high-quality, robust instruction impossible and dangerous. Yes, this "grassy knoll" approach will assassinate our district's coveted reputation as San Diego's finest district to be educated and employed. Why are people who have never taught in the classroom (Ok, one claims to have been in education for 25 years, but I am still trying to figure out the math) ignoring what seasoned educators and administrators are advising? It's baffling and embarrassing for us all. Please, listen to the majority of those you serve and who are offering solutions that will work for our kids, our educators, and our community. Let's stay home and healthy by following the guidance set by CDPH & CDC.
Shiva Kansagara	<p>My name is Shiva Kansagara and I am a junior at CCA. Junior year is arguably the most challenging year for a high school student. Most of us are juggling 4 to 6 AP classes, SAT prep, and a variety extracurricular activities while COVID-19 is still rampant in our community. Our teachers have been doing a phenomenal job at creating at-home workspaces, adapting their schedules, and providing assistance during their personal time through Google Chat or Google Meet. I am extremely disappointed that I may have just had my last class with some of the best teachers in the state, if not the nation, on Friday, due to the hasty decisions of the school board. The teachers are being forced to decide between following the orders of the school board to return to in-person teaching and risk their lives and the lives of their friends and family OR do the right thing and not return to in-person teaching and support the greater good, in which case they must go on an unpaid leave of absence.</p> <p>According to the California School Board Association, the roles and responsibilities of the school board are to "provide community leadership as advocates for children." We are counting on you to consider the WHOLE community. Teachers are an important part of a student's journey into adulthood. Without our teachers, we, including all of you Trustees, would not be where we are today. Rather than letting a courtroom make the decision, I urge you to demonstrate your own leadership abilities by pausing to listen to your community. Take the time to understand the situation, and then come up with a solution that benefits the whole district. I want to quote an African proverb for you to consider "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." Please, LET'S GO FAR TOGETHER. Rushing to return to in-person teaching and learning on January 4th will have serious consequences on the very students that you are hoping to protect. Please don't rush this important decision. This is a matter of life and death, literally.</p>
Anonymous	<p>As I see my school finally beginning to reopen with one-day-a-week scheduled for January 4, it's one step closer to normalcy. It gives me something to look forward to when I wake up in the morning, and helps me fall asleep knowing that I will be doing SOMETHING. I will have somewhere to go instead of my corner, a dark room with a computer screen. I hope that it will stay on track and keep opening more. It is a lot of work to reopen a school, but it is more painful having dim hope of a future, and having the school stay closed off to most of us.</p> <p>As I spend more time at home, my living space feels smaller. My body feels more tense as the days go by. With this school finally opening its doors to the lost students, I have hope that all the pain and depression I'm feeling will go. My sister would finally not be in the same room as me. And on Sunday I would look forward to tomorrow. I heard what the high school student council reps have said. They don't speak for my friends or me. We want to be back in school full time, with teachers teaching again.</p> <p>Not only would this benefit me but all of the students at Earl Warren. I have a good number of friends who are just in their room, dying to have a real conversation with someone other than their family. We want to get the experience we have been waiting for ever since we left 6th grade for real in March. To see friends passing through the hallway. To have a dramatic scene in math class. Even just to have a conversation at the lunch table. Please help to get me back in school.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	<p>I am an ASB student in the district. We represent the views of all students. Because of this, please listen to and respect our opinions. Schools should not open in the purple tier, it is too dangerous and risky. If schools were closed in March when there weren't many cases why are we opening school now with 1.89 million cases in California alone? Now more than ever since it is the holidays people will be gathering with family and friends, not social distancing so the spread will be more severe. Plus it is cold and flu season so there will be a massive spread of the virus. Distance learning is working. I have learned how to manage my time more efficiently, how to use different technology, how to self advocate in different ways, and many more wonderful skills. The safest and smartest decision that the board could make for all is to remain on distance learning at home until it is safe to go back to school. If the board decides that students go back to school there will be no difference in the way we are learning right now. I would much rather be online learning directly from my teacher than a substitute that is not an expert in the subject area. PLEASE DO NOT REOPEN!</p>
Anonymous	<p>Thank you to the board for continuing to move forward on the full safe opening choice of schools that is planned. Our family is in complete support of following the CDC, political leaders and health experts on that kids need to be in school and that based on other models it is a safe place for teachers and kids.</p> <p>Thank you for following all guidelines to create a safe environment for staff and kids as you have done. Even though many of our teachers have done their best , Thank you for continuing the fight for our kids that are failing emotionally and many academically in DL. It is a hard place to be in with many teachers refusing to be back even with no health issues. Though compassionate for choices essential workers must make - Thank you for making those hard choice to allow others to come in and take the lead to teach our kids where those that choose to to will not.</p> <p>Thank you for continuing to lead with the scientific facts that are in the favor of the choice of being on campus and not following the fear that is being presented by opposing sides. Choice is important to allow these kids to flourish and grow.</p>
Sue Tsai	<p>Are you really seriously considering opening Jan.4th or is this another political stunt? Now is not the time for stunts. You couldn't even open even if it were safe to do so, as you are so unprepared logistically. Of interest in discovery would be the superintendent's past history with regard to "safety." Last district: did not update safety plans for years (required annually), Gas leak at HS that went on for weeks. Employees were admonished for reporting it. Schools reopened first after a massive wildfire due to toxic air. School air filters were not cleaned, nor were there adequate masks for staff before reopening. Sound familiar? It's happening all over again. Who will be left to pick up the tab? Kids are getting coronavirus all over, whether they die or not is not the metric you should be interested in, it's protecting our hospitals that are overflowing with patients.</p>
Susan Lagrange	<p>There is a belief that reopening schools for school-aged individuals is safe. However, I am concerned that this information is premature. The CDC discusses a new deadly disease Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) that we now know affects young people who were either exposed to individuals with Covid or those who have tested positive for Covid. This disease does kill, and or leave survivors with chronic conditions. According to the CDC, you should protect your child from (MIS-C) by taking everyday actions to prevent your entire household from getting the virus that causes COVID-19. The district claims that filling up our classroom with masked students is enough to keep our children and teachers safe. Yet, according to studies in South Korea, the virus amongst masked individuals in an indoor setting traveled up to 20ft. Our students will be separated by only 3 feet. We hope that they will wear masks, but we cannot even get adults to comply with mask rules. There is no promise that students will wear theirs correctly. Covid lingers in the air for up to three hours. Higher virus counts create worse cases that are more contagious. Based on the small amount we know about this virus, it seems evident that we do not know enough to keep our teachers and our students safe. People are dying. Our emergency rooms and ICUs are filled. We have more deaths daily than we had on September 11th, and the thought that our schools are immune to that same danger makes no sense. According to the State of California, we are not legally allowed to re-open. Schools up and down the state will not be reopening. The law is in place for a reason. Other schools are staying virtual for a reason. That reason is that it's not safe. Not for our children, not for our families, and not for our school employees. Reopening is not worth a single life, and the fact that we are even considering endangering human beings so that we can put our students back on a physical campus cheapens the value of each life that has already been lost.</p>
Suzanne von Thaden	<p>Please continue to move forward with opening up our schools in January and Q3. My students frustration, anxiety, and apathy towards school has been an rollercoaster that has forced our family to seek outside resources both academic and mental health support. Give our students the choice to return to campus- do not cave to the CTA pressure.</p>

NAME	Comment
Tania Kim	As an alumna, teacher and parent in the district, I take great pride in the education that SDUHSD provides and I look forward to the day that we can welcome students back into the classrooms safely. It simply is not that time yet. San Diego County is deep in the purple tier, supplies and ICU beds are running out as COVID 19 cases break daily records. Please take a measured approach based on the current public health status of our community, scientific evidence and the advice of the CDC and the CDPH. It should not be an arbitrary date, but a time when the health and safety of everyone in our community can be safeguarded. Please reconsider the current re-opening plan for our district. Let's keep everybody healthy and safe.
Tara Curley	<p>We know that COVID can be spread from people of all ages, and the young particularly can spread it asymptotically. But adults (particularly the elderly) suffer the worst consequences, especially those with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and immunocompromised states (for example, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, or being on chemotherapy for cancer).</p> <p>Opening schools during this third wave of COVID will only supercharge community spread. Our San Diego hospitals are already overtaxed (and this is BEFORE the anticipated spike in January). Many ICU's are completely full, with hospitals creating additional wards to manage the overflow of critical cases.</p> <p>By the end of Q3 our teachers could be vaccinated, and perhaps Q4 could look like some semblance of normal. However, if teachers are forced to return to unsafe, working conditions in the middle of the worst phase of this pandemic, as clearly articulated in the Petition for Writ, there will be irreparable and avoidable harm to our staff, our students and our community.</p> <p>Before you cost our community thousands of dollars in legal fees, still lose on the merits, and put the health of our community at risk in a deadly pandemic, follow the lead of surrounding Districts and change course.</p> <p>Are there kids who are suffering, yes...but let's keep in mind some of the reasons WHY. We are living in a divided world in the midst of a global pandemic. Unsafely opening up our schools to a wide return to campus is not the cure to this problem. Stop hiding behind anecdotal stories of student depression and suicide vague statistics pretending opening schools will cure this problem.</p>
Anonymous	Study after study has shown that keeping schools open is one of the least dangerous and most important thing a society can do. Schools closures will widen the inequality gap and allow the teachers' unions to pick winners and losers on today's population of school children. The "haves" will always have private schools (all are open and doing fine in our area). The "have nots" will not be given a voice and be relegated to ineffective distance learning. The insistence of the teachers' union to keep the schools closed is contrary to science and severely punishes the kids they are supposed to care about in their profession. In addition, the fact that our teachers are using their position of authority over our kids to lobby their views on school closure is unacceptable. By putting the kids in the middle, they are making them pawns and instilling fear and anxiety. It is shameful.
Anonymous	Please do not cave to the union pressure! Please allow students that want to return to campus to do so. Thank you for supporting our students!
Anonymous	It is beyond disturbing that we have now reached a time in society where there is blatant disregard for Science and common sense. The fact that mask wearing is now a political statement is mind blowing. No one feels that distance learning is an ideal situation for students, or for the instructors. However, these are unprecedented times - a global pandemic! Our district does not seem to have adequate measures in place (distancing - only if applicable, open campuses at lunch - so kids can freely socialize mask free, no cleaning between classes, air filters that professionals have deemed not strong enough) etc. YET - there is an expectation that our students and instructors should return to campus - 3 days after New Year's Eve. This community (and even religious institutions) are happily gathering all around - I can't imagine even a Stay Home Order will prevent Christmas get togethers. How can we treat our educators, students, as well as their families with such little concern. Our district's amazing reputation has been built on the backs of our dedicated teachers. 60 of them have already said that they will leave. I am not interested in having honors/AP classes taught by subs (of which we only have 12 so far) - when qualified professionals can be doing it through DL. Unlike a new member of our school board, many of us in the community care about what the students say - and even they think it is ridiculous to consider coming back 1/4. They are educated, scared and compassionate. Even these kids would like a delay to see the surge subside.

NAME	Comment
Tracey Bannon	<p>I am running out of fantastically lucid letters when logic and sanity keeps being ignored. I agree that calling all teachers, staff and students back to school campuses in a time of a Purple Tier and when our cases are skyrocketing, our ICUs capacity limited and our medical community stressed, "Signifies a complete discern for rational health and safety measures for us all".</p> <p>With the virus raging, a holiday season approaching and the uncertainty of that combination, we MUST make prudent choices to protect the health of our communities without creating unnecessary disruptions to our current pursuit of education for our students. Teachers WILL take leave and the students will be left with inexperienced substitutes who will interrupt their learning patterns and it IS the students who will be stunted in this process. There is also a critical staffing shortage of substitutes. The teachers and the students in this district are exceptional and have done well with online learning. IT IS working! It has not been a smooth transition for all -but for those who need help, there is help. Some loud voices do call for the return to campus -two on the board will simply will not listen to reason and possibly have their own agendas however the majority of staff and students WANT to be safe and they want their communities to be safe as well. Teachers want to teach and educate our children. Let them teach from an environment that is safe for them and one that is working during these virus surging times. To call all back to campus with little regard to those high risk or those who live with vulnerable family members is reprehensible to be honest. In this moment, there may not be a right decision, only the best one for these extraordinary circumstances.</p>
Tracy Cereghino	<p>Please open our schools. Ensure that we have proper ventilation. Let teachers work remotely who have health concerns or live with someone that has health concerns. Focus on the statistics/data from OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT, not from the entire county or Southern California "region". Let the teachers and students who want to return to school, return. And let the teachers and students who want to stay home, teach/learn from home. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am a full-time, public school teacher in a neighboring district, and my children go to school in San Dieguito High School District. I currently teach in the classroom in a hybrid model and I am very happy to be back, as teaching remotely is far more difficult than teaching in person. My district, following state and CDC guidelines, is following the safety measures to only open to full-time classes for all students when we are in the back in the red tier for three weeks. I think that the board would be negligent and at fault if students returned to full-time, in person classes, without taking safety measures for teachers and students into consideration. I see resilience in our youth that I have not seen, to this extent, in my 20 years teaching. I also know, that as a teacher, if I were asked to return under the circumstances presented at the previous meeting, I would lose confidence in my administration. Violating the health code could lead to the district having to spend more money, money that should go toward children. Teachers are the soul behind education; they are not expendable, and neither are children. The pandemic will be temporary, but your decisions will be lasting. Our teachers are what make SDUHSD the amazing district it is, and they deserve to be safe, as do our students.</p>
Anonymous	<p>There is clear scientific evidence and guidance that we should not reopen in the purple tier.</p> <p>Dr. Kim Prather of UC San Diego, world-renowned advisor to the CDC, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Senate and Congress said in an interview Tuesday here ('We're Backed Into a Corner': Two Experts on the Best Path to Reopening), which also included infectious disease expert Dr. Chip Schooley, that "Right now, the numbers, where they're going, you don't open a school anywhere." and "We've got to bring the numbers way down, then the schools are ready to open."</p> <p>Prather has also posted publicly on social media specifically pointing out that SDUHSD has insufficient safety standards, even for a one day a week reopening. New cases are skyrocketing. Hospitals are filling up. Is this really the time to have schools undertake massive reopenings, especially schools that have inadequate safety plans (given that SDUHSD's plan falls short of expert recommendations in physical distancing, ventilation and filtration, testing, and other areas)?</p>
Vincent DeNobile	<p>Hi, my name is Vincent DeNobile. I am a Concerned Student of CCA. Since the SDFA filed against the board I think it is fair to say that the board's decisions are not in the interests of the students, teachers or even the parents. The SDFA's filing also shows that the board ignored all of the teacher's previous attempts at changing the board's decision in their favor. Hopefully the board will see, after thousands of dollars wasted on a lawsuit, that the board should act in the interests of its teachers and students. If the teacher are forced to go back to school many will get COVID due to the absolute disregard of health standards. The board refuses to acknowledge the bare minimum requirements and goes for whatever is 5th best calling it good enough for the thousands of students and faculty that it will affect. The board's goal of 3 feet social distancing is a clear sign they either don't care about students and teachers or they are incompetent at the position they are supposed to fill. Our voices matter and thanks for considering my input. Students, teachers, and parents all stand against the board.</p>

NAME	Comment
Anonymous	I'm concerned about how staff shortage will impact school reopening. I have learned from the 12/17 board meeting that 40 teachers have requested leave due to health reasons, 20 teachers due to family care reasons, 12 new requests were submitted since 12/15. Yet there have only been 6 applications for substitute teachers. We simply don't have adequate pool of substitute teachers as there is a national shortage of substitute teachers. I worry that if multiple teachers call in sick on January 4th, what will happen to our students' learning. Please only reopen when the staff shortage problem is addressed. Thank you.
Anonymous	What in the world is going on with the teacher's union? It is shocking that the teachers and teacher's union want to sue our school district! Trustee Allman already mentioned that he would support distance learning for teacher's teaching if they have a valid medical excuse although it is interesting to hear that a lot of teacher's are now securing those medical excuses. Do we really have a bunch of teacher's with ill health and if so why are they working in this profession as they have to deal with the deadly flu each year? This is truly a sad state of affairs when the teacher's union doesn't get their way and they sue. In the end litigation is a lose-lose for everyone especially the students not to mention it's a drain at the taxpayer's expense.