

Public Comments  
July 20, 2020

**Comment 1:**

My name is Selma Ortigoza, I am a parent of a upcoming preschooler, kindergardner and third grader. I need options besides online/distance learning. I am open to hybrid or weekly in classroom setting. My kids need to continue to get their education at school. It's really difficult when parents are working and we need to teach children at home in different age group. Please help, provide something else besides distance learning.

Thank you  
Selma Ortigoza

**Comment 2:**

I am a teacher in the Fullerton School District. As an educator, these last months have been difficult. Teachers want to be in the classroom. We want to interact with our students, and return to a state of normalcy. However, at present this does not seem possible nor wise. As we approach a decision regarding reopening schools this August, it is important we listen to those who have been and will be on the front lines, and focus on science, facts and safety.

Recent information has stated that children are less affected by Covid than adults, but that seems to be changing. More and more reports of children dealing with the disease are surfacing (information cited at the end of this statement). In an environment where the common cold is passed around like wildfire, can we really guarantee the safety of the children? No, we can't.

Even if we operate under the assumption that the students will be fine, what about the adult teachers and staff--the immune compromised, the expectant mothers, those over 60--what about our safety and health? One consideration that seems to be continuously overlooked is that without teachers, schools cannot operate. Should even one person be affected by Covid on a single campus, everyone will be negatively affected. There are those in the community who rage against wearing masks, and shout about kids needing to get back to school for their emotional wellbeing. Should we have an outbreak of Covid, how will that affect their emotional wellbeing? Can we guarantee students will not be harmed? And can we guarantee that teachers and staff will stay well and present to help students through this time? No we can't.

We in the Fullerton School District have proven that distance learning on a virtual platform works--we altered our curriculum and began teaching under an entirely new format in two days--two days. Imagine how much better we will become if we are permitted to begin working on our lessons NOW. For any argument against distance learning, there are solutions--we just have to be willing to work together to implement them. Can we ensure that students will receive a quality education while distance learning? Yes we can.

For those against distance learning, against wearing masks, against basic safety precautions, what have we to lose? If we follow recommendations of scientists and medical professionals, and nothing happens, you may feel justified in your beliefs that all this is unnecessary. If we don't follow these recommendations, and you are wrong, people will die. The risk is simply too great.

We cannot allow willful ignorance to determine our course of action, especially when the safety of our teachers and our children is at stake. In order for teachers to continue our work, we need diligent support from our district leaders, and active participation from the community.

Thank you for your time. I sincerely hope our amazing school district will make the right choice, and choose distance learning for the health, welfare and safety of the students and the staff.

Respectfully,  
Erin Patinella  
Theater, ELA, Student Support Teacher

**Comment 3:**

To whom it may concern:

I had a concern about options for students other than social distancing. Also, if there was a possibility for other children to have online learning available. Will this be a possibility?

Thank you

Melissa Rodas

**Comment 4:**

I would like to add per the guidelines "There is a single exception. Local health officers may grant a waiver to allow elementary schools to reopen in-person instruction if the waiver is requested by the district superintendent, in consultation with labor, parents and community-based organizations. When considering a waiver request, the local health officer must consider local data and consult with the California Department of Public Health."

Can Fullerton SD Superintendent Request a waiver?

Thank you.  
Neil Esposito

**Comment 5:**

I am writing today because I have been deeply disturbed by the division within the Fullerton community, especially in the context of educating our children. I understand

that everyone is under a great deal of stress due to an unprecedented global pandemic, economic turmoil, and social upheaval. At times like these, we have an opportunity to define who we are as a community, and be an example to our children as to what good citizenry is all about. Good citizenship is not just about voicing the views and frustrations of any one person, group, or race within a community. Good citizenship is about using those voices as an impetus for positive change and collaboratively working together to create SOLUTIONS that work to UNITE a community, not DIVIDE it further.

Let's talk about Black lives matter, NOT to be confused with the Marxist organization, Black Lives Matter. I am willing to bet that anyone who has stated that all lives matter has not once had to live in fear of death, every time they saw a cop. I bet that they have never felt the injustice of being treated like a criminal from the moment they were born, no matter where you go, no matter how much education you have, no matter what profession you're in, because of the color of your skin. I bet privilege blinds them of generational poverty and just how difficult it is to break through those chains. People forget that all of us minorities enjoy the rights and privileges we have today because black people fought and DIED for them. So I say to the Black community members in our city, THANK YOU.

However, you cannot blame people for not understanding something that did not exist in their lived experience. In the lived experiences of many citizens of this city, I'm sure that hard work did in fact lead to better standards of living and opened doors to opportunity, so it becomes even more difficult to understand the systematic and spiritual oppression that some minorities face. None of us fully understand the shoes in which our neighbors walk, but good ones ask and seek to understand, albeit not completely. Have you ever asked an Indian neighbor what their culture was like with the intention of accepting any differences as richness that adds to our community? Have you ever asked an Asian neighbor why they moved to Fullerton and why it is that Asian representation is so minimal considering its size? When was the last time you broke through the discomforts of racial differences to find common ground with your neighbor? All of our school board members, notably Mrs. Sugarman, is a good example of a neighbor who sought to understand the experiences of the underprivileged through many years of teaching in those communities. She continues to serve to be the voices of her constituents, fought for and made available a tremendous amount of resources to provide access to marginalized students, and for her and other board members to be insulted by recent attacks is an affront to people who have dedicated their lives to serving ALL students.

Those who are so critical of privileged groups within our city forget that these same privileged people fought alongside Blacks and also DIED to fight for the marginalized, all throughout American history. Privileged people in this city and all across America continue to work for, serve, and give to communities that suffer from systemic racism and poverty. When people highlight the high test scores of one group versus another in an unfavorable light, I would like to ask why? Isn't it a good thing that student subgroups in the city are performing well? Shouldn't we be celebrating that and work

for all student subgroups to perform the same? Or is it to highlight the privilege of one group versus another and stir divisive resentment?

Speaking as an Asian woman, mother of children who attend Fullerton public schools, and a civil servant that dedicated my entire career serving underprivileged children, I ask that the parents and community members of Fullerton be sensitive to ALL groups within this city. This does not mean you have to agree with all points and that's the beautiful thing about democracy. Did you know that a great many Asian members of this community moved to Fullerton after the L.A. Riots, disillusioned by false promises of the American Dream? An entire community of Asians homes, businesses, and livelihoods were ransacked and destroyed because of resentment towards a group of people that were deemed too "privileged," and "different." The events of those days are reminiscent of "Kristallnacht," as the Nazis destroyed Jewish communities, which served as a precursor to the genocide of an entire race of people. NO ONE came to the aid of these Asians because they were the "model minority" resented by all groups. Have you ever thought what it would be like to be an Asian in this community? Yes, there were and still exist racist Asians, but let me ask you, aren't there in your racial group? Have you ever wondered why many Asians keep to themselves? Have you ever thought that they might also be hate-based trauma victims? Black, White, Asian, Latino, Native American... haven't we all been victims of racial hate? In light of all the violence, riots, and looting of businesses in the media as well as the economic uncertainties, have you ever wondered how opening up our schools with Black Lives Matter curriculum, celebrating anarchy, highlighting injustice without solutions, and complete ignorance of the lived trauma that a quarter of the community had faced would feel to Asian parents and their children? Is BLM going to cover the plight of Asians, the glass ceiling, and the destruction of an entire Asian community too? You attack our area representative because she is doing her job of listening to the pain of her community members? Shame on you for your ignorance, but I believe in the good will of this community to do the right thing.

I say NO to opening schools with Black Lives Matter. Anti-hate should be a regular part of the curriculum. BLM is a Marxist organization under the guise of racial justice, which promotes lawlessness, seeks to eliminate the police so they can freely usurp the government, and a radical terrorist group further that will further divide our community. BLM has no place in our children's education. I earnestly urge all of the well-meaning parents of this community to teach your children the love of diversity by getting to know your neighbor first and modeling what Fullerton citizenry should be. This is a solution that UNITES our community.

Citizen of Trustee Area 2  
Name Omitted for Safety Reasons

**Comment 6:**

Good Evening Board Members,

When our family moved to Fullerton I confess I did not have much faith in the public school system. My brother has ADHD, and growing up he struggled with school,

understandably. The system did not do him any favours. The accommodations put in place for him hindered him more than helped. My son also has ADHD, and his experiences up to joining FSD at Maple Elementary were all too familiar to me.

I was and still am blown away by the difference. My son in the three years he's attended school in this district has come farther than I could have imagined, and while he deserves credit for his hard work, and we deserve credit for the support he gets at home, a great deal of credit goes towards his educators. FSD is populated with amazing human beings and our children are so fortunate to have their lives touched by these wonderful people. My son went from an introverted angry young man, to running for student council. He graduated his IEP program. He was admitted to the Honors Society. I am so proud of all of his hard work, and I am eternally grateful for the guidance and support of educators and other staff who have helped him achieve these heights.

My daughter, having no disability, has also thrived. She is bright and this is recognized and celebrated by all of the educators and staff who guide her and teach her. They hold her accountable and push her to achieve. She's not ignored simply because she doesn't cause problems, and she's not allowed to 'phone it in.' That her educators recognize this and do expect her to achieve at her level is awesome.

It is both the leadership of the school district as a whole as well as the outstanding work of the entire staff and administration at Maple Elementary that has given my children opportunity and experiences they would not have had anywhere else. The leadership of Dr. Pletka and the board, the leadership of Anthony Abney, the dedication and love all the teachers, aids, and staff have for all the students of Maple is an asset worth acknowledging and protecting.

I applaud your commitment to our community, our families, and our partners in education. I appreciate that distance learning is a choice we had before the Governor made his announcement on Friday. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support of our children, community, and equally as important, the men and women who work every day with our children.

With sincerest gratitude and kindest regards, Jennifer Hoare

### **Comment 7:**

1. Per the Governor's 7/17 order, counties on the State monitoring list must do distance learning until they are off the list for 14 consecutive days. This could create a horrible revolving door, where FSD bounces back and forth between distance and on-campus learning depending on whether Orange County is or isn't on the list. What is FSD going to do to prevent this? Will FSD commit to at least a month or two of distance learning regardless of Orange County's status on the list.

2. I have a question about the FSD options presented on June 23:  
In Option 1, two days are in-classroom core for instruction. Please explain in detail what is happening the other three days? (what, where, who supervising?) Will half of the school's students literally spend all day spread out around campus (like outside, on

playgrounds, in library and multipurpose rooms)? How is that less risky than having them in the classroom?

3. A suggestion about the FSD options presented on June 23:

In Options 1 & 2, half the students are in-classroom on Monday & Thursday and the other half on Tuesday & Friday. I suggest that you have the students do consecutive days. One group do Monday & Tuesday plus every other Wednesday. The other group do Thursday & Friday plus every other Wednesday. Far less nightly cleaning will be needed because the in-classroom group stays the same for consecutive days.

4. Regarding distance learning, I keep wondering why teachers can't simply present their normal core curriculum each day, live online? (Either from their homes or from their classrooms). In other words, have teachers actually teach/present core subjects every day for several hours. During normal times, students have to make it to school for set hours every day; why can't students be required to be online for set hours every day to participate in live instruction?

In this circumstance, the students at home would still need some adult supervision, but the adult would no longer be responsible for teaching the content.

If live, online instruction for 28 students at once is too many, perhaps divide them into cohorts for distance learning. A teacher would instruct cohort A (14 students) on Mon, Tues & every other Wed. That same teacher would instruct cohort B (14 students) on Thur, Fri & every other Wed. (Plus, if the school does switch to on-campus learning, it can maintain those same cohorts.)

5. Can you tell us what distance learning will likely look like/how structured/how taught? Who decides? Does each school/grade/teacher decide how to accomplish? Will parents be doing most of teaching like the Spring?

Thank you!

From: Julie Giacomuzzi, Esq.  
(has a 1st grader, Beechwood)

**Comment 8:**

Dear Board Members,

Distance Learning at the close of the last school year did not work. Virtual meetings hosted by teachers were sporadic and mostly non-instructional. How will Distance Learning in the upcoming school year be different? Will instructors be required to host virtual instructions during the majority of the school days? This is especially important for younger learners, where parents may not be readily available and are not prepared for independent study.

Regards,

Henry Au

**Comment 9:**

Dear board members,

My kid goes to Beechwood. Hence, my comment will be only for Beechwood since I am not aware of the other schools. As an educator, I ask you why Beechwood school did not provide education through zoom? 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers just put the material and said “students are free to do work. No obligation.” On top, teachers had only ONE hour office hours meeting per week in two time slots with only 30 minutes period each. This was absolutely a disappointing teaching methods by teachers. I have seen my friend’s kid who are going to school at Manhattan Beach. Their teachers provided zoom meetings starting at 8 am until in the afternoon. The kids even ate their lunch with their teachers through zoom. What a wonderful experience for kids during this difficult times. They were not separated from their teachers. What a different practice than Fullerton School District? Is that because Manhattan Beach families are rich and teachers felt obliged to provide high practice education or because teachers love their kids and wanted to provide the best education for them even though they were allowed to choose whatever the delivery of their materials? I believe the combination of both. Did FSD think that majority of our families are middle class or poor families hence they would not complain whatever the FSD provides for them?

I hope and want to believe that FSD Board members will make decision about zoom meetings every day to students as if they are in real-time classroom.

Regards,

Prof. Gulhan Bourget

**Comment 10:**

Once Orange County has a 14 straight day decrease in infection rates and thus making it eligible to return to in-person classes, what is the estimated time frame needed to logistically prepare for in-person.

When in-person instruction returns, will it be standard 5 days per week or will it be a hybrid offering as has been proposed prior to Governor Newsom’s distance mandate.

Best Regards,  
Tim Winters

**Comment 11:**

As I applaud Governor Newsom’s order mandating distance learning during COVID-19, it is my fervent hope that the Board and Superintendent Pletka had intended to put the

health and safety of students and staff first by reopening exclusively online even absent such state intervention. As the parent of a Ladera Vista junior high student and an active and involved volunteer within the FSD community for the last eight years, I eagerly look forward to hearing details of the “rigorous, meaningful instruction” our students can expect as mandated by the state. Indeed, the district’s stated mission is “to work collaboratively with the community to provide an innovative, high-quality educational program for all students in a safe learning environment.” In these challenging times, we are counting on FSD, more than ever, to deliver on its promise to provide “unique and challenging programs” equivalent to what students would receive in-person. I’ve spent years listening to the district present itself as a committed partner in ensuring academic excellence for all its students. Now, as never before, I certainly hope that’s true.

Thank you,

Susan Wheeler

**Comment 12:**

Hi, my name is Steven Logwood and my family lives in Fullerton, California. Our household includes my wife Jacqueline, her parents and we have one child in junior high school, one child in high school and one child in college.

Everyone recognizes that there are benefits of in-person learning and negative consequences of children staying at home including, lack of access to nutrition. However we are primarily concerned about the possibility of our children being hospitalized due to COVID without us being able to provide the physical support they would need to recover. It’s also terrifying for us to consider the possibility of watching a loved one die and not being able to visit them in the hospital and/or not being able to provide them with a funeral service.

I like others, get anxiety going into the grocery store and I can only imagine the fear and stress a teacher would feel in a classroom of thirty students. The threat to their lives is even more exacerbated if social distancing is not maintained and masks are not worn. Moreover, janitors and building staff responsible for sterilizing surfaces can be infected while cleaning the surfaces. These professionals did not sign up to risk their lives on a daily basis to educate our children.

At this point in time, there are too many known unknowns to endanger the lives of students and adults by reopening schools for in-person learning. In our opinion, it’s better to absolutely minimize the possibility of illness and loss of life, even if that comes at the cost of a furloughed or postponed educational curriculum and even at the cost of other potential negative life circumstances. If students are dead they can’t learn. If they are alive next year, they will have an opportunity to catch up on the lessons they missed this year.



I am the primary income provider for my family and as you might expect, I don't want to increase my chances of dying from COVID19. Instead, I want to decrease the odds of contracting the disease. That's why our family is following the guidelines of the CDC. Fortunately, I can work from home. If we are in public, we wear masks and gloves and we are minimizing contact with other people. Like many families, we are sacrificing our normal lifestyle in order to stay safe. If in-person learning at school resumes our family's probability of being infected with the coronavirus, directly or indirectly increases.

Although, we understand that some parents may want, or need their students to resume in-person learning, we'd prefer to continue with distant learning until it is safe for our children and teachers and staff to go to school.

Steven Logwood

**Comment 13:**

Thank you for your care and concern for keeping us safe.

Sandra Lee Tallant

**Comment 14:**

I am a parent of two elementary students of the Fullerton School District and a former graduate of Laguna Road Elementary, Parks Jr HS and Troy HS. As a student in the 90's and attending the different schools within the Fullerton District, I have always been surrounded by diversity in academics, cultures and race. As a Korean American, my parents have always modeled that with hard work, responsibility for your actions and respectful manners you can achieve your goals, whatever form it may be. It is a standard I hold myself to as an adult and also a model I teach my kids at home.

I ask that the Board continue to stand firm on their revised resolution #19/20-21 and DO NOT add the word BLM: the Black Lives Matter movement in the Fullerton Educational Curriculum. I believe that black lives matter the movement is a political stance and not beneficial to the enrichment of our children's education. It is a movement that Yes, a person's life is sacred and in no way should be taken away due to one man's irrational choice. But instead of supporting a movement that encourages self righteousness and anger. We as a Fullerton community need to come up with a better solution to address racial equality in our students. We need to raise up peacemakers, not entitled dividers that take up the streets in "peaceful protest" that end up in rioting, looting, and or vandalizing statue. We need to teach students how to take personal responsibility for their actions and choices rather than blaming the system. We support our Black community and we all stand against racial injustice. In a diverse community, as Fullerton is, let us celebrate and honor all the different cultures and races. Let us not single out one minority group because at one point in time, each race has felt racism, faced inequality on a sports team, or experienced favoritism in the classroom.

I ask that the parents and community members of Fullerton be sensitive to ALL groups within this city. Unless we embrace and appreciate all people of color, we do not have the proper posture to begin discussing racial injustice in our public schools.

I stand and support Sugarman and her approach that ALL lives matter. Every student should feel they have the right to receive equal support from the Fullerton District staff and teachers. Because no race is better than the other and no race has felt more oppression than another.

Resident of Trustee Area 2 Jinnie Sohn

**Comment 15:**

1. FSD announced learning options when school reopens, but it did not tell parents how to make selections. FSD should make this very clear to all parents, before school year starts.
2. FSD should make it very clear how grading and evaluation will take place, especially during mandatory remote learning period. "Pass" or "Participated" should not be used as grading parameter.
3. FSD needs to publish "virtual bell schedule" and number of hours that each teacher will interact with each student, in-person or in group. Remote learning does not mean reduced learning, and the number of hours each student interacts with teachers should not be compromised due to remote learning.

**Scott Kao**

**Comment 16:**

Here are all the reasons that I strongly disagree with requiring teachers to attend in person on campus:

1. The air systems in most schools are old and in need of replacement if they are to meet the safety standards for circulating air that is infected with COVID. This is a costly endeavor, but it should be done for when schools do eventually open back up. However, teachers should not be forced to work in unsafe air conditions and should not return to campus until these systems are updated. Additionally, turning the air off is not an option either as the classrooms can become sweltering during the first few months of school, creating an comfortable working environment and potentially dangerous one for those with medical conditions.
2. Teachers and staff will have to share restrooms while working. Restrooms without open air become hotspots for the transmission of COVID.
3. Adults transmit COVID to adults at a higher rate. Asking all adults to be on campus has the high potential to increase COVID cases among teachers and staff.

4. Governor Newsom's orders are first based on whether or not your county is on the monitoring list. In order to bring children back to school as soon as possible, we must work together as an entire county to be removed from that list. Creating conditions where COVID is more likely to spread is the opposite of the kind of decisions we all need to be making.

5. Many of your teachers are also parents who will have young kids at home who cannot attend school. Rather than requiring them to find daycare, which would increase COVID transmission in the county, they should be able to stay home with those kids.

6. Many of your teachers are in high risk categories for COVID. You are gambling their lives and the quality of their lives with this requirement. The same is true for teachers who are not high-risk, just to a lesser degree.

7. Some teachers can actually do the job better at home as their homes are better equipped with the appropriate tech needs of distance learning. For those who cannot, either provide them with the tech they need or give them the option to come to campus. This way, they are making their own gamble, and there will be fewer people on campus, thus lessening the rate of transmission.

8. Why? What is the reasoning behind requiring attendance on campus? Do you not trust your teachers to do their jobs with as much diligence at home as they do on campus? If so, this is a relationship issue between the district and the teaching staff that should be addressed, and I would encourage you to bring data to support your lack of trust to that conversation. Conversation should be the first step to a solution to that problem, though -- not life endangerment.

In short, if what you want is a greater return to normalcy, then now is the time to make the intelligent decisions that will lead to that goal. Keep teachers home.

Leah McCauley

#### **Comment 17:**

Hello, My name is Jennifer Thien and I have two children that attend school in the district. I am writing in concern for the teachers welfare. I was so impressed with the job that they did in the spring with my children's education in a time of crisis. I've heard rumors that school districts were considering having teachers teach remotely from their classroom. I want to make sure that that is not a consideration. Teachers are people like the rest of us and many have children and families of their own. The idea that we would send them to an empty classroom to teach when they can teach from the safety of their own home is preposterous and cruel. I know the amount of work that they are putting into remote learning is much more stressful than the usual workload. Why would we want to treat them like anything less than the professionals that they are?

Thank you for your consideration,  
Jennifer Thien

**Comment 18:**

We saw during the spring that distance learning was ineffectual as teachers attempted to deliver content to students in a method they have not been trained for and curriculum that was not designed for distance learning. The teachers did the best they could while trying to manage their own homes and coordinate with students on Zoom. As a professor that teaches both on-line and in-person, the content development and delivery is substantially different and does not just “convert” to on-line. What steps has FSD taken over the last four months to prepare for effective distance learning? If we choose to withdraw our children from FSD during this distance learning period, what will be the policy of readmitting students if/when the physical classroom opens up?

Scotty Galloway

**Comment 19:**

Please take note that the California government and the state’s department of health websites state that the district superintendent can request a waiver to open elementary schools for in person instruction, granted by the local health officer. Since our district has done so well to prepare and create a spectrum of services with enhanced safety measures, I urge the board to support Superintendent Pletka in submitting a request to provide Fullerton families the best education you have worked so hard to provide. This would still allow concerned families to school from home while families whose children receive specialized instruction, families with parents who work and will be placing their children in childcare or else need to take off of work, as well as families who want their child to be at school, can have their children receive the education services their family needs.

**Darlene Rosete**

**Comment 20:**

I am not supportive of distance learning. Where is the data that support full time distance learning will keep students healthier than in person learning?

By keeping learning online, we are doing a great disservice for the children. Not only are we short changing them on learning, but we are harming the children's development by inhibiting social interactions. And in many cases, this brings a great hardship to working parents of younger kids as additional resources will have to be used for childcare. And there is no data that says school age children are actively infecting others while getting sick themselves.

If the board feels compelled to do something, then set up a hybrid program. This way, those of us that feel in personal learning is a must can have at least a portion of the

week learning conventionally. Without in person learning, our children will lose a significant amount of learning opportunity that will never be recovered.

Denny Sun

**Comment 21:**

Hello my name is Caleb Sun and I am 12 years old. Last year I was at Acacia elementary in 6th grade. And towards the end of the year, all of a sudden we went into online school. Online school was a better option for our safety, But it wasn't as providing as normal school. I felt like I wasn't learning as much and that's because it was online. Yes, we had 2-3 meetings a week, but it didn't feel as engaging. I would feel like I wouldn't have to do the work. And I know many kids who were very disengaged. Where as in normal school we were all, engaged. So I think that online school just doesn't give us as much learning and opportunity. As well as I don't get to interact with others. I think interacting and talking with others (in real life) helps you with social skills and lets you be more engaged in your class. Which in online school, we never really got to talk with our friends, etc. Lastly, is I missed out on a bunch of things and I'm going to miss out on more with online class. For example, 6th grade camp, band (which I don't know how Mr Hastings will be able to teach band in online), basketball at LV. In conclusion, this next year school year I will be starting junior high at Ladera Vista and I would love to go back to normal school to get a, what I feel-better education, I wouldn't miss out on anything, and I would be able to interact with others. So I am really hoping along side many other kids in FSD that we are going to be in normal school for 7th grade.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,  
Caleb Sun

**Comment 22:**

My wife and I are parents of an incoming 2nd grader at Raymond Elementary in the DLA program, and we have lived here in Fullerton for several years.

I'm thankful that the Governor mandated we begin the school year with Distance Learning. I am writing to ask you to extend this to the full semester and not consider a reopening if the county comes off the watch list.

I am including citations for any information given for the transcript for anyone who desires to look into these facts more.

There is a growing body of evidence that shows increased transmission and harmful effects of COVID-19 among young people. Just a few days ago a 13 year old boy in Claremont died while experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (actual infection status still pending. article: <https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2020/07/17/claremont-13-year-old-dies-covid-19-symptoms-maxx-cheng/>). Israel, a first world country, opened its schools

fully in May and had hundreds of new cases among students and staff just two weeks later, ultimately putting almost 30,000 people in quarantine by last week (<https://www.thedailybeast.com/israeli-data-show-school-openings-were-a-disaster-that-wiped-out-lockdown-gains>).

This situation is temporary, and will pass. There is an increasingly positive outlook on vaccine research, even as of today with the new developments coming out of Oxford (<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53469839>). I believe it is imperative we put the safety of our students and staff above parental convenience and in-person learning until a safe and effective treatment of this disease and/or a vaccine is available. It is true that some or many of our students will experience a more difficult learning environment temporarily. While this is unfortunate, it is the preferable situation to getting sick and learning first hand what the long term health effects on our children may be.

Please put the safety of everyone first and abandon any hybrid or full attendance models for the remainder of calendar year 2020. A potential spring 2021 return should be evaluated later this year.

Ray and Kate Gibson

### Comment 23:

I am concerned with the choice you have made to have classes all online for students in the upcoming school term. While I know that it is in response to rising cases of COVID-19 in Orange County, it is noted that only 8.6% of kids aged 0-17 are showing up as positive cases. In addition, death rates for kids in the same age range is at 0.0%. It has also been determined from studies presented by *Pediatrics*, the Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics on the peer reviewed study, “COVID-19 Transmission and Children: The Child Is Not to Blame”, it was found “that the child was not the source of the infection that children most frequently acquire COVID-19 from adults, rather than transmitting it to them.”<sup>1</sup> Based on this and other recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics who advocated for sending kids back to school, I urge you to reconsider your decision to forgo on traditional in classroom learning. Further, “accumulating evidence and collective experience argue that children, particularly school-aged children, are far less important drivers of SARS-CoV-2 transmission than adults. Therefore, serious consideration should be paid toward strategies that allow schools to remain open, even during periods of COVID-19 spread. In doing so, we could minimize the potentially profound adverse social, developmental, and health costs that our children will continue to suffer until an effective treatment or vaccine can be developed and distributed or, failing that, until we reach herd immunity”<sup>1</sup>

Kids are missing out on learning and growth development that is vital to their mental and emotional well-being. Being subjected to these stay at home orders has adverse effects on children in various ways and it is in the best interest of children overall to return to the classroom. I have two kids who attend the Fullerton School District and it was evident to me in the last school term how disengaged they were as soon as online

learning began. Not only were they just being assigned work on Google classroom, I failed to see adequate, live meetings with students via Zoom or other video platforms. You cannot expect all kids to be self-sufficient and motivated on their own, they need adequate guidance from their teachers, not a checklist of to do items for the week and a check in once or twice a week. I would like to see the option available for those families that want to send their kids to school for traditional learning, or at the very least hybrid learning as was the original plan. For online learning, I expect to see teachers meeting with students for each class they have in real time. Our children need this interaction with their teachers and peers and it is vital that you do all that you can to make sure this happens. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Beena Matthew

**Comment 24:**

I am writing to share thoughts/suggestions about Distance Learning this fall.

I would like to request face-to -face lessons be conducted synchronously via Zoom where the teacher engages with all students in a similar manner to the classroom. The only change would be that each child is doing the lesson from home instead of the classroom. Posting lessons/video's for students to do on their own was not effective with my two kids last spring.

It would help to keep the schedule the same requiring students to sign-in with the Homeroom teacher for attendance at start of school, and continue with the subjects with recess and lunch as scheduled. The change would be that both recess and lunch would be at home with family or caregiver.

Thank you for your consideration,  
niroshika keppetipola  
Parents of two FSD attending students

**Comment 25:**

Esteemed Board Members and District Administration,  
I am privileged to belong to FSD as a 20 year veteran teacher, and as a parent, with two children currently attending FSD schools. This spring my children's teachers did a PHENOMENAL job! They kept up the rigor and culture of the classroom with daily live instruction and asynchronous activities. My husband, also a teacher, and I, upgraded our internet, bought microphones, overhauled the home office, and turned our home into a place we could have 4 people learning / teaching at the same time. We did it all on our own dime because we knew it was important, and because we are teachers - preparing is what we do! Of course, it wasn't perfect, and so this summer we have spent time learning and researching and planning - for any and all situations - because we had no idea just what we were planning for. I say this not for a pat on the back, in

fact, I could name a dozen teachers who have done even more, but I tell my story to encourage you to trust your teachers. We are committed to learning and teaching in FSD. In the spring our school administration, along with district support, proved they value our safety and respect us as professionals when they empowered us with the freedom to teach from home rather than in our empty classrooms. Please continue to trust and empower us as we rise to this latest challenge. Provide teacher choice whenever possible, and consider that our teachers are juggling myriad home situations while remaining ever committed to teaching and learning in FSD. Together we will continue to show Fullerton School District is a place for innovation, community, safety, and excellence in education. Thank you for your time.

Andrea Calvo  
Ladera Vista School of the Arts

**Comment 26:**

As we are leaning toward distance learning, what are the chances that the FSD would provide free wireless hotspot for low-income students like LAUSD?

Thanks,  
Jason

**Comment 27:**

Dear Raymond Elementary and Fullerton School district.

My name is Katerina Fischer-Militaru. Along with my husband Michael, and on the behalf of our 3 children – Sarah 2<sup>nd</sup> grade DLA, Claire TK, and Rebecca 21 months old – I am writing this letter because we do not agree with Governor Newsom’s mandate announced last Friday and we request that the district apply for the elementary school exemption. We feel very strongly that our children should be allowed to go back to school – without masks but with appropriate social distancing – free to play, eat and have their PE class outside. We believe socializing and in-class learning with a teacher is crucial for our children’s wellbeing. Since research shows that children rarely spread this virus<sup>1,2</sup>, we do not see how their presence at school can be any danger to them or the faculty. On the contrary, the long term damaging effects of extended screen time required for distance learning far exceed the minimal threat of this virus to our children, and this does not even begin to address the serious socio-economic damage this will cause to families across the country<sup>3</sup>. We are not willing to compromise the wellbeing of our children in that way.

As for our family, I am a mother who takes care of our school-aged girl and 2 little kids, including a toddler, and am doing this more or less on my own as my husband works long hours 5-6 days a week. This means that I am constantly cooking, cleaning, and changing diapers – not to mention that I have no credentials to be teaching, especially not in Spanish. My children love to learn with a teacher and do not like to study with me. Denying them the choice to go to school makes me very sad. As for Sarah, she does not get Spanish anywhere else but at school. How is this going to work for



her? Toward the end of the last school year she lost her passion for learning. I spent sleepless nights trying to figure out the homework and translating her Spanish work, so I could understand what she needs to learn and be ready to answer questions. She did a great job completing all her work, but did she actually learn something? Who could blame her, with her baby sister crying for attention – who I could not be there for as I normally would – plus seeing her other sister play and color while Sarah had to study, it would be impossible for a 6 or 7 year old to have that kind of discipline and focus and not to be distracted.

Aren't there any teachers who share the same view and who are willing to put a shield on – not a mask – since kids need to see their teacher's mouth moving as they speak, especially when learning in a foreign language? Can't we give the teachers a microphone and speaker, so the students can hear and understand them clearly?

I understand that these are not easy times. All I am asking is that we as a community can focus more on the actual research data, and less upon the fear that is being brought upon us, to stay strong, to use our common sense and to apply for the state exemption to stay open and let our children grow.

Sincerely,

Katerina Fischer-Militaru

**Public Comment 28:**

As a long time FSD parent, I'm heartbroken that the amazing work our district has done to prepare for on campus education was summarily negated by Governor Newsom last Friday. This district has a safe way to reopen its campuses for learning and I urge this Board to do the following:

1. Authorize your Superintendent to continue preparations for all three education options previously presented to parents: homeschool, hybrid distance learning, and 5 days of on-campus education. Continuing to prepare for on-campus learning will ensure our district is ready for the earliest opportunity to welcome families, who wish, back on our campuses, once it is allowed.
2. Send a letter to the Governor demanding he revise his order. His order should not be connected to his watch list. Instead, districts who have enhanced cleaning and sanitization, can ensure proper physical distancing, have a testing program in place, etc should be able to get authorization from the State Superintendent of Instruction to open.

Local school districts should have the authority to plan for the specific needs of each district. Please stand up for our children and their education; be our voice!

Jennifer Fitzgerald  
Sunset Lane mom

**Public Comment 29:**

During DL, I would like more instructions and guideline from the teachers to the parents on daily/weekly basis on how to help the children. Especially for the younger students, it gets extremely hard to help the student at home when the student gets lost during DL and parents don't know what and how to help the student. It becomes a blind leading a blind.

For school opening, I would like to see the hybrid being more of two weeks on and two weeks off option to follow the 2 week quarantine guideline by WHO and CDC. When they attend school 2.5 days, it'll be hard to trace and track and mitigate virus spreading.

Cindy Kim

**Public Comment 30:**

Hello, my name is Van Nguyen, one of the parents at Golden Hill Elementary. My kid not learning much online. I wish he and all other kids can go to school being safe . Like what I heard before kids go to school on Monday & Wednesday, other groups on Tuesday & Thursday, sound not good to me. When one got , look like all kids will get infected. I think School can divide students into two groups A&B. Each group will go to school for two weeks then switch to other. During those 2 weeks for distance learning we can consider its a Self quarantine/Incumbents and time in case anyone get sick we will know right away so we can limit the spreading of the pandemic. It's safer for the kids and all others and this is what I'm thinking.

Best regards,

Van Nguyen