



**WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

March 18, 2021

Consistent with the Shelter in Place orders from the Governor and Yolo County, this meeting was compliant with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, which allowed for a deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act. In-person attendance was not permitted. The meeting was available for live stream viewing, and recordings are available at <https://livestream.com/wjuds> (click on the Board Meeting date).

Attendance Taken at 5:00 PM:

Present:

Deborah Bautista Zavala
Morgan Childers
Bibiana Garcia
Kandice Richardson Fowler
Noel Rodriguez
Rogelio Villagrana
Jake Whitaker

A. CALL TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION - 5:00 P.M.

Minutes:

The Board President called the meeting to order in Open Session at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom and the meeting was live streamed and recorded via Vimeo Livestream.

A.1. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

The Board President led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA - ACTION

Minutes:

The Board President moved item J.4. *Information: Approve the 2020-2021 Comprehensive School Safety Plans for Elementary School Sites* before item J.1. *Information/Action: Update on*

WJUSD's Reopening Plan and COVID-19 Impacts and item G.2. Approve Resolution 16-21: Cesar Estrada Chavez Day - March 31, 2021 before item G.1. Approve Resolution 15-21: National Vietnam War Veterans Day - March 29, 2021.

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve the agenda as modified at the meeting. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Morgan Childers.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
Yes Morgan Childers
Yes Bibiana Garcia
Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
Yes Noel Rodriguez
Yes Rogelio Villagrana
Yes Jake Whitaker

C. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA - In-person attendance at the Board Meeting will not be permitted. Please email public comments by 4:00 pm on the Board Meeting date to public.comment@wjusd.org. Per Board Bylaw 9323, comments (emails) received shall be limited to three minutes per person, and the Board shall limit the total time for public comment on each item to 20 minutes. Public comments may also be submitted by voicemail by 4:00 pm on the Board Meeting date, at 530-406-3202, or by mail postmarked on or before the Board Meeting date, at Attn: Public Comment, 435 6th Street, Woodland, CA 95695. The meeting will be available for live stream viewing at <https://livestream.com/wjUSD> (click on the Board Meeting date).

Minutes:
Please see the attached public comments.

D. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

D.1. Conference With Labor Negotiator, Leanee Medina Estrada: WEA and/or CSEA, Pursuant to Govt. Code 54957.6

D.2. Public Employee: Discipline/Dismissal/Release, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957

Minutes:
The Board recessed at 5:08 p.m. and reconvened in Closed Session at 5:08 p.m. Closed Session ended at 6:21 p.m.

E. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Minutes:
The Board President reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 6:21 p.m.

E.1. Announcement of any action taken in Closed Session or items to be approved in Open Session that were reviewed in Closed Session

Minutes:

The Board President announced that no action was taken in Closed Session.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR SECTION G. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Minutes:

There were no public comments for section G. Community Engagement.

G. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

G.2. Approve Resolution 16-21: Cesar Estrada Chavez Day - March 31, 2021

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Resolution 16-21: Cesar Estrada Chavez Day - March 31, 2021. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Noel Rodriguez.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

Minutes:

Trustee Noel Rodriguez presented Resolution 16-21 to Christine Chavez, granddaughter of Cesar Estrada Chavez.

G.1. Approve Resolution 15-21: National Vietnam War Veterans Day - March 29, 2021

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Resolution 15-21: National Vietnam War Veterans Day - March 29, 2021. Passed with a motion by Morgan Childers and a second by Rogelio Villagrana.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

Minutes:

Trustee Morgan Childers presented Resolution 15-21 to John Morelli, retired WJUSD teacher and Vietnam War Veteran.

The Board recessed the meeting at 6:34 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA - In-person attendance at the Board Meeting will not be permitted. Please email public comments by 4:00 pm on the Board Meeting date to public.comment@wjusd.org. Per Board Bylaw 9323, comments (emails) received shall be limited to three minutes per person, and the Board shall limit the total time for public comment on each item to 20 minutes. Public comments may also be submitted by voicemail by 4:00 pm on the Board Meeting date, at 530-406-3202, or by mail postmarked on or before the Board Meeting date, at Attn: Public Comment, 435 6th Street, Woodland, CA 95695. The meeting will be available for live stream viewing at <https://livestream.com/wjUSD> (click on the Board Meeting date).

Minutes:

No public comments were submitted for Special Board Meeting agenda items.

I. REPORTS

I.1. Superintendent's Report

Minutes:

Superintendent Pritchard provided brief updates to the Board of Trustees on actions taken since the last Regular Board Meeting.

J. TEACHING AND LEARNING

J.4. Information: Approve the 2020-2021 Comprehensive School Safety Plans for Elementary School Sites

Minutes:

The Information item "Approve the 2020-2021 Comprehensive School Safety Plans for Elementary School Sites" was presented by Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Elodia Ortega-Lampkin, Gibson Elementary Principal JaimeAnn Hopton, Dingle Elementary Principal Ursula Ruffalo and Zamora Elementary Principal Dr. Felicia Rodoni-Wilson.

J.1. Information/Action: Update on WJUSD's Reopening Plan and COVID-19 Impacts

Motion Passed: Motion was made to extend the public comment time to 25 minutes. Passed with a motion by Deborah Bautista Zavala and a second by Rogelio Villagrana.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala

Yes Morgan Childers

- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

Minutes:

Please see the attached public comments.

The Information/Action item "Update on WJUSD's Reopening Plan and COVID-19 Impacts" was presented in a PowerPoint presentation by Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Elodia Ortega-Lampkin, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christina Lambie, and Director of College and Career Readiness Jacob Holt.

Motion Passed: Motion was made to keep the current grading system. Passed with a motion by Morgan Childers and a second by Rogelio Villagrana.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Abstain Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

Motion Passed: Motion was made to direct staff to bring a resolution before the Board to formally adopt August 16, 2021, the first day of the 2021-22 school year as the start date for Phase 4 contingent on County Health Guidelines. Passed with a motion by Jake Whitaker and a second by Rogelio Villagrana.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

Motion Passed: Motion was made to direct staff to begin negotiating for the merging of Special Day Class Groups A and B so they can have an in person 4-day instructional week. Passed with a motion by Jake Whitaker and a second by Deborah Bautista Zavala.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez

Yes Rogelio Villagrana
Yes Jake Whitaker

J.2. Information/Action: Planning Status for Having Virtual Academy in the Fall

Minutes:

Please see the attached public comments.

The Board recessed the meeting at 9:08 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

The Information/Action item "Planning Status for Having Virtual Academy in the Fall" was presented in a PowerPoint presentation by Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Elodia Ortega-Lampkin. The Board directed staff to begin planning for an online learning option for students in the fall.

J.3. Information/Action: Ethnic Studies Graduation Requirement Implementation and Adjusted Timeline

Minutes:

Please see the attached public comment.

The Information/Action item "Ethnic Studies Graduation Requirement Implementation and Adjusted Timeline" was presented in a PowerPoint presentation by Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Elodia Ortega-Lampkin, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christina Lambie, and Director of College and Career Readiness Jacob Holt. The Board directed staff to bring back an updated resolution reflecting an implementation date of 2023 and clarifying that the Ethnic Studies requirement will be a graduation requirement.

J.5. Information/Action: Approve Resolution 55-21: Waiving the District's Academic Eligibility Requirements for Students Participating in Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities During the 2020-2021 School Year

Minutes:

Please see the attached public comment.

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Resolution 55-21: Waiving the District's Academic Eligibility Requirements for Students Participating in Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities During the 2020-2021 School Year with the following edits: students taking advantage of this waiver must maintain a 90% attendance rate and participate in at least 2 hours of tutoring or similar services per week. Passed with a motion by Noel Rodriguez and a second by Rogelio Villagrana.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
Abstain Morgan Childers

- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

K. FACILITIES AND FINANCE

K.1. Information: Nutrition Services Department Update

Minutes:

The Information item "Nutrition Services Department Update" was presented in a PowerPoint presentation by Director of Food Services Spencer Springer.

L. GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

L.1. Action: Requested Change in Process for Handling Public Comments During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Minutes:

This item was tabled.

L.2. Information/Action: Review District Input for Joint Statement with the City of Woodland

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve District Input for Joint Statement with the City of Woodland with edits to the draft from Trustee Bautista Zavala. Passed with a motion by Jake Whitaker and a second by Rogelio Villagrana.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

L.3. Information: Updated Board Governance Handbook

Minutes:

This item was tabled.

L.4. Information: Board Agreement Check-in

Minutes:

This item was tabled.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Board President adjourned the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

BOARD CLERK

BOARD PRESIDENT

**Special Board Meeting
March 18, 2021
Public Comments**

Hello, Board of Trustees. My name is Alli Baker and I am a science teacher at Douglass Middle School.

This public comment is in reference to agenda item D.1. Conference With Labor Negotiator, Earlier this week, it was the understanding that our Collective Bargaining Agreement, Article 17 Section C Item 10 states that **“unit members may leave the school site during the regular work day with prior approval of the site administrator”**. My administrator was able to grant accommodations to teachers who need to teach remotely for the afternoon during the time in which no students will be physically present on campus. Teachers would be allowed to leave after their last in-person class is dismissed at 12:05 and would be expected to be available for office hours beginning at the end of lunch, 1:05 - 2:05 and during teacher collaboration time from 2:05-3:05.

I have been successfully performing this aspect of my job for 12 months. My own children will need transportation to their in person instruction in another district. Although they will be in school during the entire time I am performing my virtual job duties, I would not have time to travel back and forth to my work site. There is no way for me to get my children to and from school without being able to perform my virtual job duties from my home. I am being forced to choose to support my students or my own children. It is unreasonable to remove this accommodation. If I am forced to take a leave of absence, my students will suffer.

Trustees and Superintendent Prichard,

I am writing to you today regarding the proposed return to school Elementary schedule that was distributed last Friday. The proposed schedule makes us feel that we have been deceived, misled, and betrayed. The proposed schedule is unacceptable and inconsistent with what has been discussed by the board over the past several months. The discussions have always revolved around a 2 days a week full day hybrid model. All previous discussions regarding half days were dismissed as unworkable, yet that is what you have offered. As stated last week, a majority of families want their kids to return to in-person learning. Yet, you are allowing the minority to speak for the majority. WEA consists of 100 teachers. These 100 teachers are speaking on behalf of 10,000 students. That is NOT acceptable.

Returning to school is safe. Medical experts, mental health experts, and government officials have all made it clear that returning to school is safe and needs to be a priority. Your proposed schedule is inconsistent with those guidelines. Why did we fight for teachers to be vaccinated if all along they were planning on deceiving us? The phased in approach you continue to discuss, that was created by you, can just as easily be discarded by you. It's out of date and doesn't apply any longer.

Many other districts in California are open at full capacity for full time instruction. How is it that our district is unable to overcome challenges that have been solved in other parts of the state? How are we left with 6 hours per week for our children?

This schedule does not put students first and is unable to be utilized by the students and families that need it the most. You and the district staff have failed the students and families of this district.

Do the right thing,
Kirsten

I want to first recognize the difficult place the Board of Trustees and the District Administration find themselves in. It cannot be an easy task to balance between the safety and mental health of our children, requirements of the teachers union, and the guidelines put in place by the CDC and State of California. However, in the schedule released on Friday March 12th, I think the board, administration, and union have sorely missed the mark. As parents of a kindergarten student at Beamer Park Elementary, we were told it was possible our child would be in person for two (full) days a week. When reading the schedule, it looks like they will actually only be in class from 8am-11am with either distance learning or asynchronous learning for the remainder of the week. This seems like a small difference, and may have been a point of consolation in negotiations. It was bad enough that our daughter may have to be 'distance learning' for three days but to find out it will likely contain significant asynchronous learning is very disappointing. In our opinion, a 5-6 year old is NOT capable of independent learning in an asynchronous environment.

In our opinion you've created a schedule that may please the Union, or the Administration, but it is coming at the cost of the education of our children for the remainder of the year. I would request that you go back to the negotiating table and get a better deal for our children. Here are other options that make more sense:

AM/PM split for 4-5 days a week.

2 full days in person, with concurrent learning on the other 2 days (Wednesday as all distance learning).

Pool all students that want Distance Learning Only into classes with new teachers.

We moved to our neighborhood to be close to our daughters elementary school, to create a wholesome/rich experience for her; but we can't subject her to any further delay in her education. If this continues into the next school year, and the Board, Administration, and Union haven't figured out a better way to educate our children, this family will be seeking another alternative outside this district, or at a private school. Other districts have found a way to make this work better, and that makes your response a shame and should be taken as such by each of you.

Christopher Holt
Beamer Park Elementary School Parent

To the Board:

With the release of the hybrid schedules I am utterly perplexed and completely disappointed in this district. My family is new to Woodland and this is our first year with WJUSD and I am truly concerned now seeing how ill prepared you are to return to in-person learning after an entire year. There is zero excuse at this point.

Why are you doing the absolute bare minimum to return our children to school? A few hours two days a week is an absolute joke. Not to mention that there is no support system in place for

working parents. I work, not from home, and now must arrange to pick up my children at 11am, get them to childcare, and get them fed in 30 minutes; it's ridiculous.

The CDC has released guidelines stating we can be 3-4 feet apart, wear masks, wash hands and return to school fully. The teachers have had every opportunity now to be vaccinated and our President says all adults should have the ability to be vaccinated by May. I work in a public library and will receive my first vaccine dose today. I interact with children, seniors, the homeless, and all members of the general public on a daily basis. We follow safety protocols and have been at work every single day since the pandemic began. Yolo county numbers are trending in a positive direction swiftly and the Governor is already looking at adding a Green tier because of how quickly counties are stabilizing. A return to full-time, in-person learning is not only doable, it is absolutely essential to our children and their learning.

I am not willing to sit back and accept this mediocre offering you have set forth. We need full time in-person learning now. We need an in-person summer school program planned for now. We need a guarantee that come Fall we are back 100% on campus. If kids need to continue to wear masks then that is what we do! I want to hear and see in writing that this is what will happen. I have reached the point now that the mama bear in me is clawing her way out and I know I do not stand alone in that sentiment.

With Conviction,
Corinne Leles

Good Evening WJUSD Trustees,

For the second week in a row, I write to express my disappointment in you, the district, and WEA. I was asked to fill out a survey to opt my children in or out of in-person return to a hybrid option. With that survey came zero information about what that hybrid model would look like. From past information, parents were led to believe it would include two full days of in-person instruction a week. Hours after that survey closed, there was a bait and switch, with a plan that will likely include less than 6 hours of in-person instruction per week. Now I get negotiations are difficult, but the timing of these actions were unacceptable and a slap in the face for parents, caregivers, and students who have borne the brunt of educational shortcomings for the last 365+ days. At the beginning of the year, parents were surveyed regarding potential hybrid schedules that included half-day 5 day and full-day less than 5-day options. What we received is neither. What we received was a cop out. What we received was the district bending over backwards to WEA demands that, quite frankly, are nearing the bottom of the barrel. This is where I turn my attention to summer and fall. My kids are behind. Many of their classmates are behind. I will not be surprised if daily attendance plummets further due to the hybrid schedule that's been adopted. I have no idea how many parents are going to make this work and continue to hold down their own jobs.

My request to you again this week is to be PROACTIVE. For me, proactive means that you are addressing how you will solve severe learning loss for ALL STUDENTS this summer now. I expect robust summer programs available to all. Proactive means you have a plan for fall FULL REOPENING in the coming weeks. It appears to me the 5-phase plan crafted last fall is irrelevant now, as too much has changed in our scientific knowledge and CDC guidelines. I'd suggest you task the district with reviewing those phases and revising based on current status. We don't need to be hamstrung by an outdated plan. I'd suggest you urge the district to begin the

negotiations needed for fall now. We don't need to twice push back the dates of reopening like last fall if we're proactive about it. I also urge you to remember that you were elected to these positions to serve the community in which you live. Mr. Pritchard works for YOU. The district needs to finally put students first when negotiating with WEA. Teachers are vaccinated and CDC has guidelines we can meet. That is all that matters. That is enough.

Sincerely,
Amanda Linares

Board Members and Administrators,

Please put our kids first - they deserve better. I am saddened to have seen the bait and switch by the District in moving from full days to less than two 1/2 days per week. My prior messages about the kids (not to mention working parents) was clear, but at this point, given I have seen little out of the box thinking the children in the WJUSD have little option - continue to stare at a computer screen learning little to nothing and gaining nothing but eye problems and stress rashes....or at least attempt to make the ridiculous hybrid cookie cutter model the District has adopted work.

Turning to fall - please begin to discuss the ability of the District to ensure that our children have access to full time school and activities this coming fall term. The current Zoom learning (or lack thereof) and your hybrid model does not serve our students well.

In looking at EdSource, I note that the Woodland Joint Unified School District has/will receive a total of \$33,695,275 or \$3,609 per student. This equates to about \$100,000 per classroom - surely there is the ability to resolve whatever issues are feared (yet not sustained by science or the CDC).

Summary of Funding:

3/27/20	CARES Act (Federal)	\$2,139,786
3/27/20	CARES Act (State)	\$7,716,843
12/27/20	\$900B COVID Relief Bill	\$7,395,499
3/11/21	Rescue Plan Fed. Alloc. (Est.)	\$16,443,148

If \$100,000 per classroom isn't sufficient, what is? Please begin to put our students first. As always, my previous comments are below.

Georgia Cochran

What a slap in the face it was by allowing parents and students to believe the hybrid schedule would be 2 full days per week, and then bending to the WEA AFTER the survey were complete and switch to 2 partial days; something that was repeatedly dismissed prior to the survey. The entire country is allowing in person instruction with extremely low transmission rates. It is appalling the board has not done more to fight for our kids' essential return to school. Bars and other nonessential activities will open before schools will, and that when schools do open, they will only provide 6 hours a week of in person instruction for a couple of months before Summer break. Massive failure by WJUSD!

The board has let the community down. Upon polling parents in the community, many are already in favor of a recall of the board members. The only way to save face and avoid a recall will be implementing and approving a full reopening of all TK-12 schools prior to August return.

Community members implore you to stand up to the WEA and fight for the community members you were elected to represent.

My name is Brigit Huxsoll and I am writing on behalf of my 4 school age children. There are nearly 700 of us in the group WJUSD parents for reopening schools. We are advocating for our children and we want schools to be fully reopened by fall, if not sooner. We will not stop until our goal is achieved. Our group continues to grow each day. Do your negotiations now. Put things in place now. Be proactive for our students. My pediatrician says children over age 12 will be able to be vaccinated starting in July. All adults should have had the opportunity to be vaccinated before that. Studies are showing 3 feet is safe for spacing desks so the CDC is looking to update their guidance very soon. Please be willing to update your phased in approach as more data is collected and science shows what is safe.

I also ask you to make a more educated decision regarding attendance at high school athletic events. Not allowing a student's family to watch them when there is plenty of space to socially distance and everyone is outside makes absolutely zero sense. Where is the logic? What is the point of limiting athletes to only 2 spectators? On Saturday we attended my daughter's cross country meet and there was no issue having the 40 athletes each have 4 family members attend.

Finally I wanted to say thank you to my children's' teachers. You are going above and beyond and I know how hard you are all working. You are making this terrible situation bearable with your kindness, patience, and hard work. We cannot wait to see you in person on April 12.

To whom it concerns..(hopefully),

I have a kindergarten aged child who has not yet been able to physically attend school. This was a situation supported by almost all when the understanding surrounding the virus was vague, uncertain and unknown. Just as the world's situation was changed last March, the situation has changed again. We must now measure the known benefits of school with the low risk associated with school age children contracting the virus. Clearly, yes clearly, the benefits of school far out way the danger associated with the virus. It is now time to open the schools fully so that our children can once again take part in the society that school is designed to prepare them for.

As an essential worker, (new home construction), I have been fortunate to be able to continue working and supporting my family. I was not given a choice to work from home. I have worked outside of my home everyday since the virus began and took measures to do so as safely as I could. It takes courage to do this. Courage that has been on display everyday in this country by doctors, nurses, fire and police men and women. The list goes on; restaurant workers, grocery store clerks, sanitation workers, retail workers, etc. None of the jobs I listed can be worked from home and neither can teaching! I am asking for the teachers to have the same courage as all the rest of us who have persevered through this pandemic!

Teaching is essential and distance learning is not working. My child is enrolled in dual immersion at Dingle. How well do you think she is learning Spanish a few hours on the computer? She dreads it and I don't blame her. It's not working! Let's stop pretending that it is! Damage is being done to the children's development that can not be ignored any longer!

This board must show the courage needed to stand up to this teacher union now and open up our schools! This board must listen to mothers and fathers when they tell you their kids are struggling. When they tell you that they are struggling!
Teachers and their unions turning their backs on children is something that I never thought I would witness yet here we are.....open our schools!

As a parent of three children in Woodland School District... I'm beyond disappointed with the decisions having been made. So many schools around us are opening. My step daughter who's in 10th grade goes back next week for two full days Thurs/Fri at Natomas Charter. Other schools in Sacramento County are going back two full days. Why is our District not? Partial days is almost impossible for working families.

When forms had been sent to parents about going back for two hybrid days our kids were excited and we jumped at the chance to sign that form. Then when the schedule was released after the deadline it was like being totally deceived. We take our kids to school, pick them up three hours later, bring them home to do more school on their computer. It's just as stressful if not more so.

Our children are really suffering and the entire school system is about educating our children. They are the future. Our kids have lost so much this last year. We've made the best of it. We're coping but we're tired of being ignored. We've cared about others, the teachers and faculty's safety. Vaccinations have rolled out for the teachers. Now we're asking you to care (really care) about our children! It's sad to say that some parents don't really care about their kids mental health or education... and you won't hear from them. But us parents speaking up are speaking up for all. Opening our schools back up and getting our children back into school should be Top Priority. This partial day you have approved is not enough. We need you all to do more.

Sincerely,
Christian, Olivia and James Mom (Ashley Moore)
Tafoya Elementary

This school year and distance learning has changed my learning a lot. It is a very big problem for me I have problem when I am doing school online when sometimes I try to turn in my assignment it doesn't work. And the teacher has to fix it. And learning online it's hard to learn. I have been having trouble with my math. I want to go back to school not virtual school. The new school schedule I don't like. School for only 2 hours or 3 hours makes no sense it creates more work for the parents especially for parents who have to work. I respectfully disagree with the new schedule that we will start

Sincerely,
Olivia Niapas
Class: Ms. Sweeny
Grade: 4th

Hello,
I am a very concerned parent of two young elementary boys attending Sci-Tech academy. All board members addressed in this email need to know that, each one of you are responsible for leaving our kids last and left out in your supposed re-opening plan. Your supposed plan is 6

hours a week of in-school education, are you f***** serious??? This is a slap in the face to all the children relying on YOU to get it together and open the schools FULL TIME! I want all of you to know that as soon as our family gets off the waiting list at a local private school running full time without any issues, we ARE LEAVING WJUSD that day AND WE WONT BE BACK!!! My wife is a front line nurse who, with gloves and mask on, has had her fingers up 1000+ covid positive patients noses this year. She gets coughed on and spit on all the time. She never got sick and she never stopped going to work. STOP THIS NONSENSE WITH WEA!!!! Stop f***** over our kids!!!!

Sincerely,
Gilbert Tucker

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees,

This has been a long year. In the very beginning we were all afraid to go to the supermarket, to go any where in fact. Little was known about COVID. A year later we have learned a lot. Yes we have more to learn but the medical community is more knowledgeable and understand the behaviors needed to control the virus. We have vaccines. As a grandmother of a Dingle student I now feel much safer.

Please reassess Woodland schools' reopening plans. A starting time for elementary students of 8 am is not appropriate. I realize that this schedule is probably being driven by transportation and food services; however it is our students, the schools' customers that we should be serving. Is this what works best for students? The answer is no. Studies support a later start is better for students.

I also ask that they reassess Woodlands other reopening plans using current data and recommendations.

I am also advocating for a longer school day. Is this schedule driven by the need of having these same teachers teaching distance only students synchronously in the afternoon? There are other schools that have gone back to IN person and distance learning that are able to start at 8:30 and have a release time of 11 or 11:30.

I am also advocating for full-time instruction starting May 3 as long as COVID conditions continue to allow for this.

Respectfully

Vicki Keith

Dingle Elementary parent

Dear Trustees and Staff,

I do hope this email finds you all tonight. As a parent of 4 kids in the WJUSD, I am extremely saddened, frustrated, angry and I feel as though I lied to our kids. You all decided that you will allow our kids in person 2 days a week and you said K-12. What you did not come forth and you were not transparent and instead did a switch and say okay, 2 days a week but just two hours!!!! What is the point? This move is a joke!!!

My children were so excited to hear they could step foot back on campus but then when I later said it is just for two hours, the disappointment on their faces crushed me. Their response was why even bother. This schedule is a disservice. You could not keep a backbone and stand up against the teacher's union and work on behalf of our kids and do what is best for them.

Although I can accommodate my family, there are so many working parents out there who cannot. Their kids to have a right to be in the classroom. All kids have a right to a proper education and what WJUSD is providing is not adequate education. You all have had a year to plan. Here we are almost in the Orange tier and our kids are still not in the classroom. It appears this academic school year is a wash, and it is highly unlikely that any more can be done. Our kids who could not adjust to distant learning will now be three semesters behind. That is a year and a half of an academic school year. Our middle schoolers will be tossed into high school unprepared. High schoolers who have failed will most likely have to repeat grades. Kinders, will now enter the first grade without knowing how to read and they may be lacking the social skills that will carry with them. The odds are against our kids at this point. Thank you, board members.

Parents in the district are upset with the decisions and actions of the board. Recall efforts have been mentioned and we will not back down till our kids are where they belong. If that means being pulled from the district and placed elsewhere then so be it. They are worth the sacrifice that my family will have to make.

Planning for August should be in the works now. We demand fully opening 5 days a week all kids all grades on the first day back. Do not delay and place anymore blame or look for excuses not to open. I encourage you all to look at how and why you should. You have been elected to represent us and our kids so please do just that.

Respectfully,
Melissa Comstock

I have been a parent in the WJUSD for 9 years. My children, like many others have been struggling so hard with distance learning. My 5th grader always excelled in anything academic , but after months and months of virtual learning she became depressed and began failing all classes, it got to the point I knew I had to take serious action. After antidepressants failed to help her I enrolled her in a private school 8 am-3pm and the first day back I could see the light come back to her dark eyes. She has been there over 3 months now and she is back to a 3.85 GPA.

My son(9th grade) is a special needs student with an IEP, he has received absolutely no help in his IEP goals. He has held on for so many months trying to be hopeful, but he is now at the point of serious depression and he is failing every single class. He said he mentally cannot continue virtually . Now I have to come up with a plan, perhaps switch districts (since other districts are managing in person) My hope is that every student can attend class 5 days per week, so many kids are wanting to die due to isolation! I encourage you to talk with a child therapists to get a true understanding at what this is doing to kids

Andrea

To the WJUSD Board Members,

Writing in as a parent of an elementary school student and community member asking you to take ownership of your role as we pass the one year anniversary of school closures.

First, hypocrisy. You all wear the banner of equity, attempting to demonstrate how your decisions are based on providing equal opportunities to our students. You are wrong! The divide in this community between the have and the have nots has never been deeper. Take

responsibility for your role. You have taught our community that only the wealthy can have access to education. You have left the most vulnerable families scrambling. You have cemented a year of learning loss into the young minds that needed and deserved better. You have removed the comforting structure of a school day to children who are left home alone. You have stripped access to social and emotional development in an era of too much screen time, and added hours more to each of their lives.

Second, Ignorance. You're ignoring the science. You're turning a blind eye to federal and state health recommendations. It's been proven, school is safe to open. Own it. I want to hear you own that you know begged, but you're not willing to do better.

My third point is directed at the teachers that say "we want to get back in the classroom".

Thank you! This is the first step, but we need more from you. If you don't like how the union is representing you, get fire in your belly like us parents and do something about it. It takes courage to do this but we need your voices to speak up on behalf of your students.

In closing, i just ask again that if you aren't willing to fight for opening schools now, stop pretending like you have the students interests in mind. The act is stale.

Thank you,
Jane Tucker

I have 3 children enrolled in schools in the WJUSD. 2 of whom were 'A' students, ranking very much at the tops of their classes. Of course I say, WERE. Aka; Pre-Covid. All my children have since struggled and suffered throughout this entire distant learning experiment, which I can honestly say has turned out to be an epic fail! Parents are not teachers! Yes we are role models, but we are most certainly not equipped to take on the role of our children's teachers. Not only do most of us lack the time, but there's also the lack of knowledge in a lot of area's, and most definitely the lack of patience that we parents have very little of these days. I can honestly say this entire experience has turned my children from upbeat kids who enjoyed going to school, into depressed, school hating children who now lack the self-esteem that they once had. By keeping our children on this destructive road, we're only harming them more than Covid ever would. The recovery rate from Covid is far greater than the number we're going to see from the children who actually can recover from this awful mess we've somehow subjected them to.

Members of the Board,

I am extremely concerned about the idea of introducing a pass/fail or a A-D grading scale at this late stage in the school year. For the entire year, teachers have been held to normal standards of teaching. We have been expected to stick to new curriculum rollouts, administer benchmark exams, and hold students accountable for their work. If the board decides to introduce pass/fail or an A-D grading scale, it completely negates the work I have done to reach my students.

Additionally, students are about to return to campus in a hybrid model and are eager for a return to normalcy. If you tell students that they will pass no matter what, it will remove any incentive they have to participate in class or work to improve their grades. Teachers have been working tirelessly all year to support their students. The thought of changing the grading scale in order to "hold students harmless" makes me feel disrespected and undermined as an educator, and it disrespects and undermines the hard work that many students have done this

year. Please leave grading decisions to the teachers and trust them to do the best for their students.

Thank you,
Ashleigh Cowan, PHS

Hello Board of Trustees,

My comment is in regards to agenda item J, considering a A-D or P/F grading system for secondary students. I am a high school RSP teacher, and I strongly believe that there should be no change to our current grading system. We have been telling our students all year long that their grades count, and if they do not come to class and do not do the work they will not pass. I have students who are working extremely hard during remote learning to be able to pass their classes with A's and B's. I also have students who are doing just enough to pass because they know they can receive failing grades. I fear that if we change to an A-D grading system, my students who are only looking to pass will no longer be motivated to do any schoolwork, because they will no longer be able to fail. A grading policy where every student can pass, even when they have done no work, would be unfair to our many students who have been working extremely hard for their passing grades..

The other option being considered, pass/fail grading, penalizes students who have been working hard, and doesn't help WJUSD students achieve the GPA's needed to be accepted into a university. The grades are fair and equitable as they are please do not make any changes.

Thank you for your consideration,
A concerned RSP teacher

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees,

This is my 9th year of teaching in Woodland Joint Unified as primary teacher, and I am looking forward to being back in the classroom with my students. However, I am concerned about the schedules for phase 3. While the phase 3 schedule does not seem to break any of our contract language, the newest MOU does state "2.12 The District shall make every effort to avoid increases to unit member workload."

As a primary teacher, before the pandemic there were 5 hours of instruction in my daily schedule (with the exception of Wednesday). The phase 3 schedule is requiring teachers to teach 3 hours in person and 3 hours virtually each day (except Wednesday). **This means I will be teaching students one hour more each day than I ever have before as a teacher in WJUSD. Wouldn't this be considered "an increase to my workload?"**

The new schedule also makes changes from the schedule we have been following this school year. Currently the district schedule has a 1 hour lunch block and 1 hour of non-student time each day for elementary teachers. The phase 3 schedule eliminates our daily one hour of non-student time, and it reduces our lunch block to 30 minutes. I recognize we now get ALL of our prep time on Wednesday, but our phase 2 schedule already had non-student time after lunch for collaboration and professional development on Wednesday. So again, how is this phase 3 schedule not "an increase to our workload"?

My concern is quality over quantity. With a work day from 8am to 3pm with no daily prep time and a 30 minute lunch break, when will I have time to prepare quality lessons for my students? I am currently working my full contract day plus approximately 2-4 hours additionally to

communicate with families, prepare lessons, and do grading each day. In phase 3, I can teach the same thing in the morning and the afternoon (so on paper is it not “more work”), but is the goal that we deliver instruction in exactly the same way in person as we have been online? If we hope that teachers will give students more “hands on” learning opportunities in person, then it is more work. We are expected to prepare for in person teaching, online whole group lessons, daily asynchronous work, and grade all of the daily asynchronous work in order to update attendance in 2 hours and 15 minutes PER WEEK. Again, how is this not “an increase to our workload” compared to pre-covid times or phase 2?

The state of California has not determined the number of LIVE instructional minutes per day. Each district gets to decide this. I encourage you to look at what other districts are doing. Are other districts expecting 6 hours of live (in person and online) instruction each day? One example would be Woodlake Charter School in Natomas. Their hybrid model has 2.5 hours of in person instruction in the morning, a 1.5 hour lunch and prep block in the middle of the day, and 2.5 hours of online instruction in the afternoon. (See [https://westlakecharter.com/return-to-school-fall-2021/.](https://westlakecharter.com/return-to-school-fall-2021/))

Another example would be Lake Tahoe Unified, which has been doing hybrid instruction for about 4 months of this school year. Those teachers have from 1:15-3:00 each day to work without students. (See the PDF attached to this email.)

The WJUSD phase 3 schedule does not seem to respect teachers time or our well being. I encourage you to look closely at what the expectations have been all of the 20-21 school year and the changes now being made. Teachers are already feeling overworked and exhausted. While we make this big transition back to in person instruction, is it really worth it to provide 1 more hour of instruction (more than our daily schedule pre-covid) at the cost of quality instruction and teacher well being?

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,
Michaela Baer

Hello y'all,

The options regarding grading policies in the board packet are ridiculous at this late date, so I am going to take them one by one

Pass/no pass - you are not seriously considering this due to the fallout from parents regarding college acceptance, and we all know how the board folds under parent pressure

A-D only grades - that worked so well last spring. Low grade/low effort Kids stopped coming to their classes (at least at WHS) because there was no reason to anymore. This policy would invalidate all the hard work teachers are putting into getting students to pass. Personally, I have a no late work policy while the distance learning circus has been happening. There is absolutely no reason not to have an A in my class, other than sheer lack of effort. It doesn't matter if a student is working, taking care of siblings, on vacation (one just got back yesterday from 2 weeks in Hawaii) or anything else. Work can always be done later for full credit (and I am available anytime, ask the kids who have been surprised by an immediate response to a midnight email on the weekend).

But this WOULD save the district money on Summer School, wouldn't it? I mean, that would be the only reason this option makes sense?

We also know that the district will not be going to a minimum graduation requirement this late in the game. Be honest

Sincerely

Michael Owens

Good morning Mrs. Guenther,

Today our family is participating in the Zoom Out Protest against WJUSD re-opening plan. Our students deserve better than two mornings a week of in person instruction. This is not a protest against you, but we feel schools need to be open full time. If WJUSD continues to slow play the re-opening of schools, our family is prepared to leave WJUSD.

Our community is open for business but our children are not currently a priority. SHAME!

Thank you,

Cristal Esquivel

Hello, today my daughter participated in a zoom out protest against the WJUSD Re-opening plan. We feel very strongly that the kids deserve more than 2 mornings a week of in person school. Our protest isn't directed towards you, but I feel it is necessary for our teachers to see how important this is to us, to open full time. Not only is my daughter behind in her studies, she seems to be testing backwards. She is in 4th grade. She started the year reading at a 3.5, and now is testing at a 2.5! I do my best to get her to practice, but after so much time on the computer she's tired. This was never an issue when she was in school full time! Please. Please. Open our schools full time for the fall!

Thank you,

Vina

Board and District Staff,

I am a kindergarten teacher and a previous TK teacher. I have been for the last almost 10 years in WJUSD.

I teach 4 - 6 year old kids. Some of the youngest kids in our district's population. 180 required minutes of state required instruction.

So why is it that in Phase 3 these kids are being given double, 360 minutes of instruction/work?!? 3 hours of synchronous work and 3 hours of asynchronous work. The MOU states both types of instruction are accounted for in the total daily minutes.

These young kids are considered "in-class" from 8:15-3:00 with a 10 minute (socially distanced) recess and a 30 minute (at home) lunch. In a "normal" year they would be dismissed at 2:15 and would have enjoyed a 30 minute lunch and three 15 minute recesses during the day. Oh, and the luxury of being able to freely move around the classroom and physically interact with their peers and teacher.

My bigger question though is why do these kids, these 4 - 6 year olds, have the same daily instructional minutes, same schedule, as our district's 6th graders???

Thank you for your time.

Dear Board of Trustees,

This is the first time I have ever written a comment, but I am greatly disappointed in the lack of consistency, consideration, and communication that our district has shown to its employees. Our site administrators made agreements in regards to workplace flexibility with teachers who have to attend to childcare needs in the afternoon. Now, we have learned that the board has directed the district to not allow workplace flexibility for teachers upon our return to campus. Please honor our site leadership and the agreements that have already been reached with administration and staff at each worksite. An employee should never feel forced to make a decision between their family and their work. Thousands of employers in our country are offering accommodations to their employees, why can our district not do the same?

Regards,

Cori Graham

Good evening Board of Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard, During your last meeting the Woodland City Council and members of various city departments met with you. Childcare was brought up as being a concern for those staff members and community members returning to work. Although there are programs in place it now, it looks like many are already full for the month of April.

In the past, our community members and district staff members have counted on their children to be in school while they work. Daycare was not an issue, our kids were in a safe place, school. I know we would all like to be back in "normal" times, but we are still not in normal times and people still need help. We should not make families choose between job security and a safe place for their children. Look for more solutions for small group learning centers. Do not charge fees for these centers. If I had a school age child, I on my salary could not afford to pay out \$75 - \$450 a month in childcare. I know money is an issue for the district, but again we are in desperate times.

We have Tech centers open for students with technology issues, why can we not open centers for those who need a place to be? These students whose parents must be at work need a place for their children. These children will be in their zoom classes, why not on a school campus? During this pandemic we have all suffered in one way or another. Don't make job security another thing for all of us to suffer from.

Thank you,

Irene Difuntorum

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard, I have been a teacher for 18 years with WJUSD. I am also a parent of two students in WJUSD. I am looking forward to being back in the classroom and seeing my students. However, my concern is two-fold. Phase 3 schedules and workplace flexibility.

As a primary teacher, before the pandemic there were 5 hours of instruction in my daily schedule (with the exception of Wednesday). The phase 3 schedule is requiring teachers to teach 3 hours in person and 3 hours virtually each day (except Wednesday). **This means I will be teaching students one hour more each day than I ever have before as a teacher in WJUSD. Wouldn't this be considered "an increase to my workload?"**

My concern is quality over quantity. With a work day from 8am to 3pm with no daily prep time, when will I have time to prepare quality lessons for my students? I am currently working

my full contract day plus approximately 2-4 hours additional to complete my duties. We are expected to prepare for in person teaching, online whole group lessons, daily asynchronous work, and grade all of the daily asynchronous work, which does not even fit in a 30 minute daily prep, but that's another story.

The WJUSD phase 3 schedule does not seem to respect teachers time or our well being. Teachers are already feeling overworked and exhausted. While we make this big transition back to in person instruction, is it really worth it to provide 1 more hour of instruction (30 in the morning and 30 in the afternoon), more than our daily schedule pre-covid, at the cost of quality instruction and teacher well being?

Another concern that I have as a parent and a teacher is the lack of workplace flexibility. With all these schedule changes I will be unable to drop off and pick up my own kids from school twice a week. Isn't their mental health just as important as other students? They also want to attend in-person, but may not be able to. I am the primary caregiver, as my husband works 10 hour days. I have suffered from stress, anxiety attacks, and health issues during DL and yet, have managed to successfully teach virtually this whole school year. Now that I need the District to support me, the answer is a No?!

No daily prep to continue the quality of lessons

No workplace flexibility to accommodate for childcare issues

This lack of respect and lack of support makes me question whether I want to continue being a part of WJUSD.

Thank you for listening to my concerns,

Roseanna O'Quelly

Dear Board of Trustees,

My husband and I are both teachers in the district and it has come to our attention that the board has directed the district not to allow workplace flexibility for teachers during afternoon virtual classes when we return to in-person learning.

Childcare has been an issue that countless individuals have grappled with since the beginning of the pandemic and teachers are not entitled to accommodations simply because we are teachers. However, countless private businesses have made accommodations for employees where feasible. It is feasible to allow employees to work from home in the afternoons if they have a need so why won't this board offer the same accommodations that thousands of other employers offer?

Signed,

Monica and Brian Hofland

Dear Board and Superintendent Pritchard,

It has come to my attention that the district is thinking of changing the grading system. Why? I realize that our students not being on site has been difficult for many of them. Many parents have felt that there has been a lack of support. But from my side of the coin I see more support being offered to students than ever before.

In the past getting help after school ment an hour of homework club with two teachers and 30 other students. Now teachers and paraprofessionals are offering office hours for students

anywhere from 1-2 hours a day. Douglass now has Extended Student Support this includes evenings and Saturday mornings.

I now have students on a daily basis asking for help after school. There are days that I go from one student to the next without a break in between. But again, these students are **asking** for help. Many assignments that have been modified, so that our students can be successful. Instead of changing the grading system now, ask why some students are underachieving. Is it that they are logging into their zoom class, but not doing the work? Is it an emotional issue? Is it that they and their family are suffering from the pandemic? What else can we do for them? Don't take away from the students that are showing up and doing the work. Support the students that are struggling. Remind them showing up is half of the battle, doing the work will get them through life. Being in the classroom is not always a solution for some of these students.

As I have told my students in the past, I am not a mind reader, you have to tell me you need help. What can I do for you? How can I help you? I myself will bend over backwards to make sure that the students that I work with get all of the help they need to be successful. **BUT** they or their parents must ask for help. Mind reader, miracle worker, no I am neither, but educator I am. Please just show up and ask for help.

Thank you,

Irene Difuntorum

Douglass Middle School Paraprofessional

Dear Board of Trustees,

Today I was informed that the board has no intent to allow workplace flexibility during phase 3. As someone who has taught in the district for almost nine years and has seen both the incredible dedication of your teachers along with the growth of their families, I am having a hard time understanding this.

Your teachers continue to work tirelessly to make sure we serve our students in this unprecedented time. In addition to figuring out how to best teach our scholars online, we have rolled out new curriculums, learned how to navigate new virtual platforms, taught the standards, provided SEL, made countless phone calls to check-in, and spent more hours on our computers than we knew were possible. We have risen to the challenge. Therefore, it feels a little silly to me that even after proving our level of dedication and professionalism again and again, teachers who may need to work remotely in the afternoons (when we will not be with students in person) would have to go through the entire accommodations process instead of simply going to their admin for approval.

Again, we have proven that we can successfully attend to the needs of our students both in our classrooms and remotely, so please, provide equitable accommodations to be carried out at the site level for our teachers with childcare needs.

Thank you so much for your consideration and hard work.

Sincerely,

Anda Robinson

WJUSD Board of Trustees,

My wife and I are both WJUSD teachers and our daughter is a 3rd grade student at Spring Lake, between us we have approx 40 years of service to Woodland students. It has recently come to our attention that WJUSD will not allow us ANY flexibility in where we work during online only student contact time OR allow us to have our child with us in our classroom while we work. Why???

The pandemic and distance learning we are currently in has required teachers and students to show grace and flexibility with each other. Why is that grace I share with my students not being extended to your dedicated employees across this district?

We do not yet know what days our daughter will attend school and are being asked to make decisions in a short time frame when it could be so much simpler! Allow us the ability to do our jobs, when possible, from home and allow us the opportunity to supervise our children in our classrooms for 2 days a week.

This decision is prompting us to consider moving our child out of WJUSD or finding employment elsewhere. I urge you to reconsider this policy for the remainder of this school year ONLY.

Brian Hofland
Pioneer High School

Dear WJUSD School Board,

Tonight I am writing because I am concerned about the possibility that secondary grades will be overridden if you decide to change the grading policy.

While we can all acknowledge that this has been an exceptionally difficult school year for everyone involved, I do not believe that the board should interfere with how teachers are assigning grades. California Education Code Article 3, Section 49066, states that “the grade given to each pupil shall be the grade determined by the teacher.”

Teachers and students have been working tirelessly this year to ensure they meet educational standards, and it would be unfair to make changes to the grading policy at this point. Teachers have been doing their best to support students during this challenging time, and students have been meeting this challenge as they prepare for their futures. Please do not devalue this hard work.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,
Lisa Gaskill

Tonight I am writing you as a very concerned parent.

First, I need to express my disappointment with the current hybrid model. The proposed schedule will have my kids seeing their teacher over 50% less throughout the week. Parents have been expressing our concerns for weeks, during last weeks public comment a half day was brought up by multiple parents as unacceptable. It was condescendingly referred to as a ‘rumor’ by the superintendent only to be announced 24 hours last as the decided schedule. How is this ‘solution’ helping our students make up for the learning loss and social emotional losses over the past year? How is having them see their teacher less and work more independently solving a single thing? If anything this has just made a bad situation worse. Clearly, the board seems very out of tune with what our students truly NEED. Our students need to be back in school 5 full days per week. Science says that it is safe to do so

NOW! There are multiple districts in Northern California who are doing it & have been for months.

Secondly, it is time for you the board to make a commitment to the students you serve. We the parents are asking you to commit to a FULL Fall reopening, 5 full days per week. Our student have been done a huge disservice by the 2020-2021 school year. They need to be back in school FULL time next year from the beginning. Should any board members not feel comfortable doing so, a large group of parents have banded together are preparing to recall those members and replace them with people who WILL put OUR kids first! Your job as a board member is to represent the community you serve, I do not believe many of the children of woodland feel as they are being represented in the way they need.

Lastly, as parents we are all aware that class sizes are much smaller. My 1st grader only has 17 students in his class, compared with the normal 24 or so. We know what happens next, lay offs, due to low numbers. I strongly urge you, FIND ANOTHER WAY TO CUT FUNDS! DO NOT cut teachers. Should the board commit to a full fall reopening, many families who have chosen to homeschool or moved to a private school will likely return. Our teachers have a monumental job ahead of them next year. Catching up the kids of WJUSD. These students will need more time with their teachers, which slightly smaller class sizes will provide. They need more time in the appropriate grade level, which combination classes will hinder. Please do not punish our teachers and ultimately AGAIN our children by cutting teachers to solve a situation you the board created.

Dear Trustees,

While it is true that all the parents in America are in the same boat looking for childcare in this crazy hybrid world, it's also true that their employers are working with them-where they can- to offer workplace flexibility. I would like WJUSD to do that as well. Please reconsider your decision to offer workplace accommodations for childcare.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Christopher

Science Teacher Pioneer High School

Dear WJUSD Board Members,

I am writing this letter out of desperation and frustration. I am a current paraprofessional for Maxwell Elementary but my life at Maxwell began 10 years ago when my youngest began his kindergarten year. Since then, I have been a parent volunteer, a member of the PTA, a school site council member, and now a site testing coordinator. Throughout these years I have felt it was a privilege and an honor to have had myself and my children be such an intricate part of our community. Unfortunately, now I feel that my family is being ignored and undervalued. Due to the pandemic everyone's life had to be reorganized and school site employees were no exception. Now that there is a push to bring kids back to the classroom it seems that the district is excluding employees from returning to work due to their childcare needs or, even worse, demanding that parents who work for the district make new and financially burdensome childcare arrangements and if their child is older to leave their "of age" children at home alone while we focus on the kids at our sites. For many reasons this is an exclusionary practice, but I will focus on my own personal reasons.

Our last child is a sophomore this year and until the pandemic he was a decent student, but as many have experienced, he has since slipped into bad habits and an overwhelming sense of despair. This is not abated by returning to campus because the pandemic is still raging. My decision as a parent was to not let my child go back this year because teenagers can be notoriously less self aware than adults and as a personal choice our family decided to continue to stay at home. Now, I am being forced to either take a leave of absence or allow my child's education and the district's numbers to fall.

I have spoken to my site supervisor and have been informed that there is no other option for my childcare needs and that the district will not help. While the squeaky wheel is being greased, myself and others in my same situation are screaming and crying for help and being ignored. Please consider an option that allows a more inclusive practice and consideration for the employees that still have childcare needs due to the return of school and the hybrid model chosen to be implemented.

Thank you,
Brandi Chadwick

Dear Woodland Joint Unified Board of Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,
We are teachers from Tafoya Elementary writing to you with concerns about Phase 3 working conditions. Like many parents, we are concerned about childcare as we move into Phase 3. Some of our children will be going to school part time, and staying at home for distance learning part time. Some will be staying home full time. We will be teaching on campus the first half of the day, and teaching via Zoom the second half of the day. Unfortunately, being on campus for the whole school day when our children are only on campus for half days or not at all presents a childcare problem. Fortunately, there is an easy solution: If teachers are allowed workplace flexibility to teach Zoom classes from home, we can meet our work obligations while meeting our family obligations. We are well poised to work remotely since we have been doing so the whole school year. We are pleased that such a simple solution is possible since we are dedicated teachers and parents and do not want to be forced to choose between our students and our families.

Sincerely,
Lynn Samuels, Fifth Grade Tafoya
Tahnee Sweeney, Fourth Grade Tafoya
Tania Mannion, PHS Music Teacher
Barbara Densmore teacher grade 1
Leticia Villagrana, Spanish Teacher PHS in solidarity
Mari Sanchez, TK teacher
Annie Morrison
Jenni Pareas Agriculture Instructor, PHS
Rebecca Bernard
Gary Hook PE/PHS
Oanh Nguyen
Teresa Ramírez, Second Grade Teacher and Mom
Mayra Molina García
Casey Avalos

LuizFCoelho
Paula Loya
Alysia Phillips
Graciela Molina, ELS
Chris Minor
Ashleigh Cowan, PHS
Angela Davies
Teresa Morales, 4th Grade Dual Immersion
María Luisa Lares—Counselor
Vicki Fu
Rebecca Benning
Cori Graham, English 7 teacher at DMS
Elizabeth Christopher Science teacher
Jen Drewek Shilen
Heather Lanier RSP

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,
I am attaching the public comment sent to you by my Tafoya colleague, Roseanna O'Quelly. I agree completely with all of her points and stand with all WJUSD employees who also agree in solidarity. I have worked with this excellent educator for three years as a paraprofessional and substitute, and I was so very blessed to inherit her kindergarten classroom this year. Unfortunately, your refusal to provide medical and childcare accommodations will force me to take unpaid leave. I will have to withdraw from my internship program and end my teaching career before it begins.
My children, also WJUSD elementary students, have sacrificed so much of my attention and support in this of all years because they want to help me succeed in becoming a teacher. You have already asked my family for too much. I want to teach, and I have digital skills to share with my colleagues! Please consider accommodations so that I can continue doing so.
Thank you,
Beki Benning
Kindergarten teacher, Tafoya Elementary

Good evening Trustees,
I am writing this letter to urge you to start planning for full
In person learning for the fall NOW. Parents and students don't need any more delays or ambiguity. We deserve a commitment now and we deserve to know what fall is going to look like. Many other districts have already made this commitment, and our kids deserve the same. What happened with the planning of Phase 3 was UNACCEPTABLE. The lack of planning and the lack of transparency with parents has made many parents feel like they were misled, betrayed and lied to. And because of this lack of planning, in the end it was the students who lost.
Actions speak louder than words. Please hold the district accountable for planning efficiently. Please hold them accountable and make sure they stay the course in planning for the full return in fall with negotiations with the labor unions. Please hold the district

accountable in planning a virtual academy option for the families who choose to opt out of in person learning. Please set a MOU before the school year ends, so we don't have any more delays in the fall.

This district is here to serve our students. The students need to come first, and we need to remember that. We, the community have elected, you, this Board, to represent us and to do what is best for our children. We want our kids back in school

Full time in the fall. We need strong leadership from you to make this happen. You have allowed this district to run the clock out on this school year, please do not allow this to continue into another school year. Our students have too much to lose.

Jennifer Garcia

Good evening, members of the school board and the district administration.

My name is Ernst Schneidereit and I am the lead teacher at the district's high school independent study program. I started teaching for the district at the Independent Learning Center in 1991 and have taught alternative education in Woodland and other school districts for my entire career. Based on my experience, especially with the independent study population, I would like to offer the following comments in relation to establishing a Virtual Academy for grades 7-12 in our school district.

There are two principles that I believe are very important as we consider meeting the needs of students who want to continue their schooling via a distance learning platform, instead of attending classes in person.

The first is this: we have no idea if the demand for this service is going to extend beyond the current pandemic. While it is reasonable to expect that there will be some demand in the fall, beyond next school year there might be absolutely no demand whatsoever for a traditional school program presented via video conferencing.

Therefore, any discussion of creating a new school with its own staff is premature, and our district would be best served by taking advantage of our many teachers with over a year of experience teaching students via distance learning. By offering the virtual academy as a program within the framework of the existing high schools and middle schools, we can meet the current demand and make more permanent decisions later.

Second, there are significant differences between what a Virtual Academy student needs and wants and what an independent study student needs and wants.

A student who wants the traditional high school experience via distance learning seeks daily input from subject teachers and a classroom experience online; in other words, significant synchronous learning with less asynchronous learning.

In contrast, independent study students want the minimum in-person instruction and strongly prefer working on their own. They are after significant asynchronous learning time with little synchronous learning time.

Whatever form this Virtual Academy program takes needs to respect this fact. Merely combining independent study students with distance learning students will produce a program that neither group is happy with.

Since the fall, the ILC staff has spent considerable time discussing how a Virtual Academy program could successfully operate within our existing school frameworks to the benefit of all, and we look forward to further discussions with the district administration on this subject.

With regards for your work,
Ernst Schneidereit

Dear Board of Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,

This letter is written on behalf of the coaching staff for the Woodland High School Football program. We want to share our insight on re-enacting the GPA requirement to play sports during the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

We strongly believe that academics should be the primary focus for all student-athletes. We also fully support grade requirements for students to participate in any extracurricular activities, especially prior to Covid and Distance Learning. However, we firmly believe we should continue with the current allowance of athletic participation regardless of GPA which was presented to all coaches prior to the start of the Football season (Season #1).

This year has been unprecedented for many reasons. During the course of the school year, we as a coaching staff have been preparing to have a successful season while always knowing that in the back of our minds that there will always be a potential cancellation of all sports. Even as late February, we were planning our next steps with conditioning and preparing for actual practices despite of drop-dead dates which potentially would have canceled our season if our county health and safety conditions didn't change.

As students were scrambling for athletic clearance in order to participate, there was a general understanding that grade requirements for athletics would be waived this season. With distance learning and kids being quarantined for so long, we knew students were struggling academically. Providing access to a sports program for as many students as possible was a priority and key to alleviating some of the stresses and mental health issues created by the pandemic.

Our players have been working diligently to prepare themselves. Conditioning and training for a season which will start this Friday. We have been creating a positive environment for our students-athletes, preaching for academic improvement (regardless of inequities that our student-athletes may have experienced). Needles to state, to have them work as hard as they have and at this late in the preparation stage to have the season taken away from them with sudden rules changes will be a complete tragedy. We simply can not change the rules right before kick-off. We believe that to provide the greatest benefit to our student-athletes is to waive the grade requirement for the remainder of this season with the full understanding that these requirements will be reinstated for the next season of sports or next academic year.

Regards,

WHS Football Coaching Staff

Hello, President Whitiker and Board of Trustees. My name is Whitney Prawl and I am a History teacher at Douglass Middle School.

This public comment is in reference to agenda item K.1. Action: Requested Change in Process for Handling Public Comments During the COVID-19 Pandemic

I wanted to share my concerns about the district's request to stop accepting public comment at 1pm on days that Board Meetings are scheduled to be held. At the March 4, 2020 Special Board Meeting the district's legal council reminded the Board, and I quote "the courts have

avored transparency and the right of the public to actively participate". Moving the window up to 1pm for the public to provide comment goes completely against his recommendations. We should not be looking for ways to limit public interaction, instead we should be researching ways to increase public involvement within these meetings. For this week's special board meeting the agenda was posted 49 hours before the start of the meeting which is well within the guideline for posting a Special Board Meeting agenda, but still feels like it isn't enough time. I find it ironic that staff is asking to move this forward to give their employees enough time to organize comments yet are then expecting the community to drop everything they are doing to be sure to get their concerns in on their time frame. Often it takes at least one business day to publish the agenda in Spanish after it has been published in English. How is it equitable that we are not giving our Spanish speaking families the same amount of time to read the agenda and gather thoughts to send in, and now the district wants to limit their response time even further? At the time I'm sending you this email, a spanish version of the agenda for tonight's meeting has not been published.

Also, I see on the agenda that the district is looking into options for replacing the current public comment procedures with a live public comment system. Why is it one or the other? Why can't this be an addition to what the district already does? This week's agenda also states that using a live public comment system '*could be more difficult for the president to manage public comment during the meeting*'. Is this not exactly what you are asking of secondary teachers? To hold concurrent class sessions. To juggle teaching the class and answer questions both live in person and on the computer? I believe that President Whitiker can do it.

I sincerely hope that the Board will encourage the District to keep the current plan of accepting public comment until 4pm and also include an option for live public comment.

Thank you for your time.
