



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

**March 25, 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  
Kandice Richardson Fowler  
Noel Rodriguez  
Rogelio Villagrana  
Jake Whitaker

Updated Attendance:

Bibiana Garcia was updated to present at: 5:01 PM

**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.

**B. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA – ACTION**

**Motion Passed:** Motion was made to approve the agenda. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Deborah Bautista Zavala.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala

Yes Morgan Childers

Absent 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](mailto: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/wjused> (click on the Board Meeting date).**

Minutes:

No public comments were submitted for Closed Session agenda items.

#### **D. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA**

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

Minutes:

The Board recessed at 5:01 p.m. and reconvened in Closed Session at 5:01 p.m. Closed Session recessed at 5:54 p.m.

#### **E. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION - 6:00 P.M.**

Minutes:

The Board President reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

##### **E.1. Pledge of Allegiance**

Minutes:

The Board President led the Pledge of Allegiance.

##### **E.2. 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:

Please see the attached public comments.

## **G. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **G.1. Recognition: Jim Smith**

Minutes:

Trustee Jake Whitaker recognized Jim Smith, retired Editor of the Daily Democrat.

### **G.2. Approve Resolution 17-21: Child Abuse Prevention Month - April 2021**

**Motion Passed:** Motion was made to approve Resolution 17-21: Child Abuse Prevention Month - April 2021. Passed with a motion by Kandice Richardson Fowler 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 Jake Whitaker presented Resolution 17-21 to Cameron Handley, Director of the Yolo County Children's Advocacy Center.

### **G.3. Approve Resolution 18-21: Dolores Huerta Day - April 10, 2021**

**Motion Passed:** Motion was made to approve Resolution 18-21: Dolores Huerta Day - April 10, 2021. Passed with a motion by Bibiana Garcia 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

**H. PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE BOARD - 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](mailto: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.

## **I. REPORTS**

### **I.1. Report from Student Board Members**

Minutes:

Pioneer High School Student Board Member Bryan Fernandez Gonzalez shared information about Pioneer HS events.

Cache Creek High School Student Board Member Angel Gaytan Esquivel shared information about Cache Creek HS events.

Woodland High School Student Board Member Dora Gomez shared information about Woodland HS events.

### **I.2. Superintendent's Report**

#### **I.2.a. Information: Check-in from the Previous Regular Board Meeting**

Minutes:

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

### **I.3. Report from Woodland Education Association (WEA)**

Minutes:

WEA President Jennifer Shilen shared information regarding WEA activities.

### **I.4. Report from California School Employees Association (CSEA)**

Minutes:

CSEA President Todd Freer shared information regarding CSEA activities.

### **I.5. Report from Board Members**

Minutes:

Trustees Garcia, Richardson Fowler, Rodriguez, Villagrana, Bautista Zavala, and Whitaker shared information regarding activities that they have participated in since the last Regular Board Meeting.

#### **I.6. Information: Board Committee Updates**

Minutes:

Trustees Rodriguez and Bautista Zavala provided an update on the Childcare Subcommittee meeting. Trustee Bautista Zavala provided an update on the Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting. Trustees Childers and Villagrana provided an update on the Finance Committee meeting.

### **J. TEACHING AND LEARNING**

#### **J.1. Approve Resolution 56-21: Return to Full Schedule, In-Person Instruction at the Beginning of the 2021-2022 School Year on August 16, 2021**

**Motion Passed:** Motion was made to approve Resolution 56-21: Return to Full Schedule, In-Person Instruction at the Beginning of the 2021-2022 School Year on August 16, 2021 with one edit. Passed with a motion by Morgan Childers and a second by Jake Whitaker.

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: Update on Extended School Year and Summer School Planning**

Minutes:

The Information item "Update on Extended School Year and Summer School Planning" was presented in a PowerPoint presentation by Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Elodia Ortega-Lampkin, Director of Special Education Rebecca Foster, and Director of College and Career Readiness Jacob Holt.

The Board recessed the meeting at 8:06 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

#### **J.3. 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 Bibiana Garcia.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala

- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- No Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

Minutes:

Please see the attached public comments.

The Information 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 Superintendent Pritchard.

**Motion Passed:** Motion was made to modify the Phase 3: Hybrid Instructional Model by increasing students' in-person time to four days of instruction instead of two days of instruction per week for all TK-12 students by merging Groups A & B. 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

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

**Motion Passed:** Motion was made to approve the 2020-2021 Comprehensive School Safety Plans for Elementary School Sites with an amendment to the language. Passed with a motion by Deborah Bautista Zavala and a second by Bibiana Garcia.

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

**J.5. Information: Approve the 2020-2021 Comprehensive School Safety Plans for Secondary School Sites**

Minutes:

The Information item "Approve the 2020-2021 Comprehensive School Safety Plans for Secondary School Sites" was introduced by Superintendent Pritchard.

## **K. FACILITIES AND FINANCE**

### **K.1. Action: Approve Certification of the Second Period Interim Financial Report for the Period Ending January 31, 2021**

**Motion Passed:** Motion was made to approve the Certification of the Second Period Interim Financial Report for the Period Ending January 31, 2021. Passed with a motion by Jake Whitaker and a second by Kandice Richardson Fowler.

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

### **K.2. Information: ESSER II, ESSER III, and Reopening Funds**

Minutes:

The Information item "ESSER II, ESSER III, and Reopening Funds" was presented in a PowerPoint presentation by Associate Superintendent of Business Services Lewis Wiley.

### **K.3. Information: Update on Assembly Bill 841 (Written Report)**

Minutes:

The Information item "Update on Assembly Bill 841" was provided as a written report.

### **K.4. Action: Approve HMC Agreement for the Spring Lake Elementary Playfield**

**Motion Passed:** Motion was made to approve the HMC Agreement for the Spring Lake Elementary Playfield. 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

## L. HUMAN RESOURCES

### L.1. Information: WJUSD COVID-19 Safety Plan (Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP) and the COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist)

Minutes:

The Information item "WJUSD COVID-19 Safety Plan (Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP) and the COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist)" was presented by Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Leanee Medina Estrada.

## M. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes:

Please see the attached public comment.

Trustee Noel Rodriguez pulled the following item from the Consent Agenda for separate action: Purchase Order #7 for Victor M. Rios – Educational Trinity Program.

**Motion Passed:** Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as modified at the meeting. Passed with a motion by Kandice Richardson Fowler and a second by Morgan Childers.

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

### M.1. Business Services

#### M.1.a. Approve Purchases of Items/Services in Excess of \$15,000: List 15-21

**Motion Passed:** Motion was made to approve Purchase Order #7 for Victor M. Rios – Educational Trinity Program. Passed with a motion by Morgan Childers and a second by Bibiana Garcia.

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



**M.1.b. Approve Agreement for Audit Services from Crowe for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021**

**M.2. Educational Services**

**M.2.a. Approve School Accountability Report Card (SARC) Reports**

**M.3. Human Resources**

**M.3.a. Approve Certificated Personnel Report, 21-14**

**M.3.b. Approve Classified Personnel Report, 21-14**

**M.4. Superintendent's Office**

**M.4.a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes:**

**M.4.a.I. March 11, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting**

**M.4.a.II. March 18, 2021 - Special Board Meeting**

**N. INFORMATION: TRUSTEE REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Minutes:

There were no requests for future agenda items.

**O. INFORMATION: CLOSING COMMENTS**

**P. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR BOARD MEETING: April 22, 2021 - Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. for Open Session.**

**Q. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board President adjourned the meeting at 10:31 p.m.

---

BOARD CLERK

---

BOARD PRESIDENT

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**March 25, 2021**  
**Public Comments**

---

Good morning,

It's time WJUSD stopped being a puppet controlled by ultra conservative Yolo County Health Officer – Dr. Sisson. The recent edict about limited spectators at an outdoor football game, which is based upon her recommendation, is ridiculous! WJUSD can and should act reasonably, and be autonomous from what the county recommends. It's time WJUSD start thinking on their own and doing what's best (still safe) for the WJUSD community of students and parents, and quit hiding behind the county health officer and blaming her for the unpopular decisions. How can the County safely allow 25% occupancy of *indoor* restaurants, where masks are removed, but only allow 10% or less occupancy of an *outdoor* stadium where masks will be worn? Has someone asked Dr. Sisson this question?

Have a nice day!

Alan Mitchell, PHS Parent

---

Per the State's guidance related to Youth Sports, weekly testing is required for football. In talking with a couple players at both schools they have not been tested, either this week or in previous weeks including prior to last weeks scrimmages. When will this start? As we move full steam ahead with the districts return to normal, it is important that you require schools, A.D.s and coaches to follow the guidance set by the state to keep out athletes and community safe.  
Kristina Vannucci

---

Dear Superintendent Pritchard and Members of the Board,

My name is Jennifer Hayes and I have two children attending elementary school in the district. I am writing to you to address a concern that I have for the 2021-2022 school year. I recognize all of the hard work that the staff of WJUSD has done during this unprecedented time, and I thank all WJUSD staff for their efforts. I am concerned for what the upcoming school year will look like. This year has been tough for all, but we must do what we can to provide the best education possible for the 2021-2022 school year. I am writing to urge you to do whatever you can to keep our current site staffing for the next school year. My concerns for the next school are as follows:

1. The loss of students to homeschool and schools offering in-person instruction will result in loss of teachers.
2. Students returning when school reopens fully in the fall, we will not have enough staff to address the learning needs and gaps that will need to be filled.
3. Because families will be returning, WJUSD will be looking to hire teachers late in the game, resulting in long term substitutes and uncredentialed teachers in the classroom in a year where our students need trained, dedicated teachers.
4. Combination classes resulting from lower class sizes will add stress to the teacher and the students. Coming off a year where teachers had to reinvent their craft, we would be asking a teacher to take on a higher workload and be able to fill the gaps of two separate grade levels. Combo classes will also expect a higher level of independent work from our students, who are

just returning from a year in Distance Learning (almost an entire school year).

I understand that the budget and cuts are a difficult discussion to have. But in the best interest of our students, I urge you to do whatever you can to maintain site staffing at their current levels for the 2021-2022. Our teachers deserve it, and our students deserve it.

(Please see/read below for the full text and explanation of my concerns)

This year has been tough. Our teachers have been asked to reinvent what they do, and our students have had to adapt to changes in the ways in which they access their education. Schools have had to cut the standards that they cover and focus on the only the most important material. Because public schools were unable to open, due to state regulations and safety concerns, I know that WJUSD has lost many students to homeschool and schools providing in-person learning. This loss of students has been a great concern of mine since schools first closed in March of 2020. I had many conversations with family and friends around the repercussions of losing students from the district (and public education in general). The loss of students generally results in the loss of FTE staffing at the site level. I am writing to urge you to do everything you can to keep the cuts out of the site level and keep staffing levels intact through the 2021-2022 school year.

The district has lost students but many of these families will return when the schools reopen for full instruction; many experts currently think that schools should be reopened safely and in the fall. If we cut teachers from the site level now; we will see teachers whose contracts are not renewed leave, teachers will be moved to different school sites, and combination classes will be created. When students return to full instruction and families return their students to the district, we will not have the teachers we need to educate our students; the district will be scrambling to find and hire fully credentialed teachers who can effectively meet the needs of our students. If fully credentialed teachers cannot be found, our students will be left with long terms substitutes or non-credentialed teachers in the classroom. We are, and have been, in a teacher shortage for years, let's not lose the quality teachers that we already employ.

Moving teachers now will result in lost connections for students who have depended on their teacher to help guide them and keep some level of normalcy through this pandemic; students who have previous connections with those teachers will have those connections severed. This year has isolated so many people, connections are hard to come by and we need to keep those in place for the mental health of our students and staff. You would be asking teachers to move to a new site with a new staff and student population, all while asking them to do their best to make up for the losses in student learning this year. Please to what you can to keep our teachers at their current sites, our students need them.

I strongly feel creating combination classes the year following a global pandemic is not in the best interest of our students. I am aware that this is usually a result of low class numbers and the need to reduce staff, but I implore you to find a way to keep our staffing at the current levels. Returning to the next school year, in the light of what has transpired this last year, our students deserve the best chance possible to regain some of the education that was lost during this time. Our students deserve a teacher who can be focused on their learning, their grade level, and who can help fill the gaps created by this last year. In a combination class, that will be near impossible; it will add large amounts of work to the teacher, on top of asking that teacher to incorporate material missed due to the pandemic. This does not seem fair for either the students or the teacher; this would be asking too much of both. In the year following a

pandemic (which we may still be in), we should strive to make the return to school as comfortable as possible for students and teacher.

I understand that the budget and cuts are a difficult discussion to have. But in the best interest of our students, I urge you to do whatever you can to maintain site staffing at their current levels for the 2021-2022. Our teachers deserve it, and our students deserve it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Hayes

---

Good evening,

As you continue to talk about the way that the district communicates with the community, I would like to give you some insight as to how they communicate with employees. Here is a snippet of an email we received on **Tuesday, March 23**.

"The District will host a presentation for all employees tomorrow from 2:30 - 4:00 pm via zoom. There will be a brief presentation on Phase 3 preparations followed by a Health and Safety presentation on the preventative measures and safety practices implemented in our workplaces. **ALL employees are invited and expected to attend.**

Those employees whose work day normally ends prior to 4 pm will be paid on a timesheet for the extra time they attend this presentation. The training will be recorded and those employees unable to attend will be given an opportunity to complete the training on another date before April 12."

This was sent out a little over 24 hours before the meeting was scheduled to begin. While there are a good portion of staff that could attend this meeting at this time, many classified staff have other jobs. Nowhere does this say when or how the opportunity will be provided to classified staff to attend this meeting, how much advance notice they will get, nor does it state whether or not they will be paid for attending.

In each of your agendas you now include;

- **Not Make Assumptions**

I think we should not only make assumptions about people's thoughts, but also about what we are able to do.

I imagine the people that are in charge may think 1) Everyone can drop whatever they are doing to attend a meeting. 2) That we all have access to a computer to attend after hours or even during work hour meetings, but how many M&O staff members have a computer that they carry around with them? How many custodians carry a computer? How many classified staff don't even own a computer or a smartphone?

And while I am grateful for an opportunity to complete the training on another date before April 12." it would be nice to also know the when, where, and how that opportunity will be provided to us.

As always thank you for the job you do for our community,  
Irene Difuntorum

---

Dear Woodland Joint Unified Board of trustees, community and administrators;  
My name is Pamela Goettsch, and over the past COVID year I have served WJUSD and its students as interim vice principal, summer school coordinator, last minute substitute, secretary,

---

community liaison, district canvas lead and in my actual job as an EL Specialist. I am also a parent to two students, one in kindergarten and one in second grade. Everyone I know has done their best to do more with little over the last year. I see the hard work done by our administration team, our teachers, and our students. I want to continue to work hard. Prior to the pandemic my home time was for my family. Now that line is so blurred that my kids often ask when I will not be working. They find me at my computer daily, talking to parents, students, teachers, and administrators into the late evening hours. This letter is to encourage the board and WJUSD to allow students of teachers to remain on campus with their parents. In the labor negotiation packet of 3/5 "The District's counter proposal also addressed a new option for staff with childcare needs to bring their school age child(ren) to work with them if there is space available in their in-person classroom," but was then taken off the table in the 3/12 update. I do not see or understand a reason why. In the afternoons we will not have students in our classrooms. Allowing teachers' students to stay provides us the ability to continue our jobs. Some of you may say, "other parents do not have this privilege," and you are right. When I decided to become a teacher my schedule and the idea of working in a system that is student centered was a huge determining factor. We are in the business of doing what is right for our students. Can we not do what is right for those that have children and teach? If this policy is not changed. I will be forced into taking a leave of absence in order to provide childcare for my kids. I cannot leave two children, under 7, legally home alone, nor would I. My kids have given up enough. I wonder how many teachers are in my same predicament and if there will be enough subs to cover our absences. I reiterate. I want to work. Let me work. Please reconsider.

---

Dear WJUSD board of trustees,

I am writing to advocate for having I Ready and I Station along with other online program such as Prodigy, MYON and Epic available to student for the summer. Not all students will be able to attend summer school or any boot camps that may be offered. Mr. Pritchard also indicated that there will not be enough staff nor space to have summer school for all students. Having programs like this available for students from their homes may help minimize the traditional summer academic loss. Any thing that will minimize the learning loss associated with summer will help set our students up for greater success for the upcoming year.

Please consider this request. Data shoes that the more time in school combined with shorter summer vacations helps to close academic gaps. This is just one more tool in our tool bag to help WJUSD students close their academic gap and achieve success.

Respectfully,

Vicki Keith

Dingle parent

---

WJUSD School Board Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,

Good evening. We are writing to express concerns surrounding the lack of equity and planning for mitigation of learning loss in summer school programs given the impact of the pandemic and a full year of school closures has had on all students. While often times summer school is considered an extension of the school year and an opportunity for students to maintain skills

for ESY, work on acquiring skills that should have been absorbed by their grade level, or acquire necessary graduation requirements for their senior year it should be viewed differently this year. We have heard all year these are unprecedented times and we needed to pivot and change our behaviors to respond in creative ways in delivering services to the community to ensure health and safety to the greatest extent possible. We as a community have done this and now that CDPH is stating social distancing be reduced to 3' instead of 6' in schools, Yolo County is in the orange tier (the first time ever in this pandemic in which we have been here), and all educators have had accessibility to the vaccine the district needs to pivot to providing every resource and adjustment to mitigate learning loss as well as social emotional wellness.

The following programs have been presented in the board packet in addition to ESY (for those students with that have a recommendation on their IEP). STEAM Elementary Academy, Middle School Summer Academy, Migrant Summer Program, and High School Summer Program. All of these programs list targeted students as: Migrant, Foster, Socio-economically disadvantaged, academically disadvantaged, students at risk for not earning diploma, and staff recommended. What determines staff recommended and we ask for transparency to our school board and community on that qualification.

We are concerned our school district is missing a huge chunk of student population that could greatly benefit from a 5 day per/week 4 hour per/day in person learning model which has been noted in the district's description of these programs. We understand that data has shown these populations have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic and subsequently school closures, but MANY additional students have been impacted in ways that are not yet observed and measured by data. Students have been impacted socially and emotionally, students who struggle in school but maybe their grades have not fallen to D's and F's because of their work ethic and personality have been left without supports they need to truly learn and understand for a year, students who were previously above grade level academically but have now missed a year of being challenged in anyway because distance learning provides for zero scaffolding or challenge when the same information is presented in the same way across that grade level in the district and there is no opportunity for providing extra assignment or accelerated learning clubs/groups within the classroom to these students and they have lost ground academically but more importantly as lost the confidence and motivation they once had to strive towards their goals.

No one really knows to what extent all students have been impacted. The impact will become apparent next fall when students return in person and we see the need for Response to Intervention and Mental Health Services increase at a rate never seen before. Even then we are banking on the idea none of our WJUSD students will be a victim of a tragedy between now and then because they have already become so socially and emotionally unstable. What is acutely evident at this point though is the more in person time our students can be back in school with their peers prior to next fall the more socially and emotionally well adjusted they will be for the school year. As Trustee Childers previously stated what we can provide as far as in person education at this point should be viewed as a social and emotional intervention. Please let summer school be that for our students. Trustee Whitaker reminded us in last week's board meeting that summer school and fall had not yet been voted on whereas the remainder of the school year had. We heard both of you and hope the district did as well.

We urge the school board and district to consider these programs be made available to as many students as possible. We ask that the school board vote to amend this motion to include “x” % of space for the above mentioned groups and “x” % of space for any pupils who seek enrollment. There will be MANY families in the district who will not enroll in summer school for a variety of reasons and there will also be MANY teachers who are unable or do not desire to work the extra contract. However, for those of us who can take advantage of the opportunity to learn or to teach to our students and help prepare them for next fall we ask the district to provide for the program. The financial package which was put forth by our Governor to accelerate opening of schools indicated that 2/3 of those funds be use to mitigate learning loss and cited summer enrichment programs to be one opportunity in which districts may choose to do this.

Respectfully,  
Brian and Ann Christison

---

To whom it may concern:

Our kids need to be back in school full time. It is time for you to make a change that will make a huge difference in our children and teachers lives! Yolo County is now in the orange tier. This is the first time we've been in the orange tier since the tier system was implemented last summer. This is the best time to fully re-open our schools!!

Recent changes to CDC guidelines and CDPH now allow for 3 foot distancing between students and should allow for more in-person hours.

The proposed hybrid schedule is insufficient and does not meet the needs of Woodland children. It also poses significant hardship to parents and teachers. Make the change and do what is best for our children and teachers!

Our neighboring Natomas school district is re-opening five days a week on 4/12 based on the change in public health guidance. Many Placer county schools have been back full time since the fall! There's no reason Woodland can't do the same.

Concerned Parent,  
Diana Jauregui

---

Board/Superintendent

Please stop with the excuses and open schools full time on 4/12/2021. The science is clear and our students have suffered for long enough. Look around you at all the schools open and operating safely. Natomas can do it. Lincoln, Rocklin, Roseville, and Colusa can do it. It is long past time to put our students first. Distance learning has been a sorry attempt for my young elementary students (Sci-Tech). Six hours a week is another slap in the face. How about six hours a day, five days a week??

OPEN SCHOOLS NOW or we will leave the district permanently.

Thank you,  
Concerned Dad

---

Today our family is participating in the Zoom Out Protest against the WJUSD re-opening plan. We feel strongly that students deserve better than two mornings a week. This is not a protest against our teachers, but we feel it is important that our teachers and principals (as members of

WEA) are directly aware that we need school to open FULL TIME. If WJUSD continues to slow-play the full time re-opening of schools, our family is preparing to leave Sci-Tech and WJUSD permanently.

Thank you,  
Gilbert Tucker

---

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for all of your dedication and focus to our WJUSD students. We are grateful for your work and effort to get students back to school. We are long time residents of Woodland, and have had our two oldest daughters complete their K-12 through WJUSD. Our youngest daughter was in the middle 7th grade when COVID forced schools to close. As a result this left her home and isolated for almost one year.

These long term school closures have had a detrimental impact on children. Our 13 year old daughter became emotionally connected to electronics, depressed, withdrawn, and academically unmotivated. Her mental and academic health were starving. We removed her from the WJUSD in January 2021, and opted for a private school in Woodland. She has blossomed with the safe interactions that she has Monday through Friday from 8:30-2:20pm. Unfortunately, not all families have this option.

We are writing this letter as advocates. We need to stress that the students in Woodland are the priority to re-open with as many in person hours as possible. Traditional teaching has kids being taught in the class Monday through Friday. Kids don't have the attention or emotional span to tolerate much more of "learning" online. The data and voices of parents are repeatedly showing our Woodland kids are in distress.

We recognize that school closures have widened the achievement gap with public schools being closed and private school open. The proposed hybrid schedule will not come close to reducing that gap, and all kids need more in person learning hours. In addition, we would respectfully ask for summer school to open for in person learning Monday through Friday, as we don't recall this involves negotiations. Summer school needs to be an option for all grades, and in person. More students safely allowed in the classroom should mean an opportunity for more in-person learning for those who choose it. Please, do whatever it takes to increase the number of in-person hours.

<https://edsources.org/.../california-to-follow-cdcs.../651787>

Sincerely  
Carlos and Mesena Pimentel

---

Dear Superintendent Pritchard and Board Members,

Please please please consider the kids, not just the union's fears. The more I read, the more I learn of the numerous school districts who have been in class learning on a full time basis for months, without issue. As Woodland moves to the Orange tier (with a positivity rate lying in the yellow tier, we can certainly consider more than 6 hours per week for students to learn. The hybrid model is archaic. I realize that times are changing quickly, however, all of these phases have been in play since last spring and I would hope that the District has had simply more than only one hybrid model. These kids have lost so much - not just academically, but mentally as well. Even the kids who are not 'lost' are losing their steam quickly. I overheard a teacher the

---



other day talking to her on line class (while only slightly more than 1/2) of the students were logged in that only 3 students in the entire class had actually done any of the assigned work. Your distance learning DOES NOT work and 6 hours per week will help only minimally. How sad for these kids.

On March 19, California adopted the CDC's recommendation of 3 foot distancing (down from 6 feet) - which should make 5 days per week of learning doable. If I heard correctly last summer/fall, Supt. Pritchard stated that the District would follow science - creating models based solely on fears is NOT science.

How many more suicides or lost children does it take. In my last communication, I noted that the WJUSD stands to receive approximately \$33,695,275 or over \$3,900 per student. If this doesn't do it, what does?

My message remains, "Our kids deserve better" - please put them first.

Georgia Cochran

---

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees & Superintendent Pritchard,

As I'm sure you have heard, over this past weekend the CDC & the CDPH have changed their guidelines that students only need to be 3ft away from other students in the classroom while wearing masks. A study showed the mask wearing was the most important, that the distance between students, did not matter if it was 6ft or 3ft, there was no increased virus spread. I have copied the link below for you to review.

[https://edsources.org/2021/california-to-follow-cdcs-recommendation-to-reduce-social-distancing-in-school-to-3-feet/651787?fbclid=IwAR3-cGga7IAPUy6L8JO8ltG9\\_312BpjgYH9H8liytAcC6L9v8WN9O5h9wow](https://edsources.org/2021/california-to-follow-cdcs-recommendation-to-reduce-social-distancing-in-school-to-3-feet/651787?fbclid=IwAR3-cGga7IAPUy6L8JO8ltG9_312BpjgYH9H8liytAcC6L9v8WN9O5h9wow)

As I'm sure you also have heard Yolo county is moving into the orange tier today!

I realize there has been a lot of planning that has gone into this phase already, but it seems that now classrooms can safely accommodate more students than originally planned. I strongly urge you to revise the phase 3 plan given this new information. If more students can be in the classroom safely, perhaps we can increase the amount of days as well. This could help many parents who are teachers by not having to worry about childcare while they are teaching a separate group of students. Many issues can be made nonexistent with this small change. Our kids need you to advocate for them. 2 mornings a week is not enough. The rules have changed, so should the plan, it is now obsolete. With this new information, you have an opportunity to change the lives of thousands of students. Please help our kids!

Thank you.

Jackie Gness

---

Dear Board and Superintendent,

Thank you for your recent hard work towards reopening. The staff have been amazing at doing as you asked and complying with protocols, preparing, and communicating about reopening plans. I am amazed at what this district can do when they are really "put to the test". You are capable and able and have the backing of parents and the community alike- LET'S GET THESE KIDS BACK IN SCHOOL!!

That said... with the new moving to orange and the CDC and CADEPT OF HEALTH updated guidelines it's time to jump back into action and get out to the test once again- and I KNOW you

can pass with flying colors!! The new task is to put more students in the rooms at these 3 foot spacing limits so that we can get our kids back to school more than just 2 days a week for a few hours! Expand your plans and do it now! We believe you can do what's best for these kids!!!

A few points to consider-

\*Recent changes to CDC guidelines and CDPH now allow for 3 foot distancing between students and should allow for more in-person hours.

\*Yolo County is now in the orange tier. This is the first time we've been in the orange tier since the tier system was implemented last summer. This is the best time to fully re-open our schools!!

\*The proposed hybrid schedule is insufficient and does not meet the needs of Woodland children. It also poses significant hardship to parents and teachers.

\*Our neighboring Natomas school district is re-opening five days a week on 4/12 based on the change in public health guidance. Many Placer county schools have been back full time since the fall! There's no reason Woodland can't do the same.

I am praying for you and all of wjud.

MEET THE CHALLENGE!!!

Amanda

---

Dear members of the Woodland school board,

I am the grandparent of two children in the Woodland Joint Unified School district. I am writing to ask the board to move towards a full reopening for in-person instruction this spring. I have watched as my grandchildren, who previously loved school, have struggled to hold interest during distance learning. Children need to be with their peers and their teachers.

Current public health guidance allows for a full return to in-person school, and we ask that you move forward with a full time plan this spring. A year at home is long enough.

Respectfully,

Terri Jones/Don Jones

---

Dear Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,

I am writing this letter to ask you to re evaluate phase 3 plans given the current change in CDC and CDPH guidelines As you all are probably well aware, the spacing of students is now allowed at 3 ft, instead of 4 to 6 feet. 3 feet spacing is 90 percent effective at stopping the spread of COVID!

The district and board has stated that the 4 to 6 feet spacing was a huge factor for the reason why we are going hybrid. This obstacle is no longer there. It's time to update the plan so we can do more for our students!

What are we asking for? Moving to phase 4 in the spring would be the most ideal. At the very least, more live instructional time! You now to have the opportunity to do better for the students, 2 half days a week is insufficient, and with being able to be allow more students in the classroom, and now being in the orange tier, there is no excuse or need for this 2 half day schedule anymore.

Please no more delays, excuses, or doing the minimum for our students. We have the chance to make phase 3 better for our students, or to move to phase 4 now, and they desperately NEED it. With this new guidance, we can put more time on the clock for our kids. You have stated you

would fully re open schools when it is safe, it's getting safer and safer, with less obstacles in the way!

Jennifer Garcia

---

I'm writing this week to ask you to do better and offer more. I could not believe last week that our superintendent could not even say out loud what the actual hours with a teacher are for our elementary students. It's because it's so pitiful.

With the new guidance from the CDC our state has updated it recommended 4-6 foot spacing of students to 3 foot spacing. We also have moved into the orange tier in yolo county. Both are reasons to combine the cohorts and offer our kids the needed time with their teachers.

Please be willing to adapt your plans and do what is best for our children.

Thank you, Brigit Huxsoll

---

Good Evening WJUSD Trustees,

I'm writing this week to again beg for action. As the community anticipated last week, CDC, then CDPH have revised their spacing requirements to 3 ft based on the scientific evidence. Last week Mr. Pritchard clearly stated WJUSD takes their direction from CDPH, so I'd urge you to have them do just that. Though many public schools in surrounding counties have found a way to have kids back in school for nearly full in-person days since last fall, even with the 6 ft recommendation, here the students of WJUSD sit...at home...unengaged...falling so very far behind. Forget about No Child Left Behind, I feel like the theme of this year has been Every Child Left Behind. There was no urgency to move into hybrid, and I'd like to see that remedied with an immediate call for full in-person, or significantly more in-person hours than the hybrid will provide. Other local districts took immediate action with the updated guidance, as should WJUSD. It seems to me, having students in full-day could alleviate many of the teacher complaints related to childcare issues after lunch.

Like so many days, as I write this letter, my first grader sits next to me in tears. She's sad, it's now nearly impossible to get her out of bed in the morning, and when I finally do, the first words out of her mouth every weekday are "please don't make me log into school today." Imagine for a moment, being an English-only first grader in the dual immersion program, where 80% of your day is conducted in a language you were only exposed to in a classroom setting for 6 months over a year ago. You have no peers to provide context clues and no way for your teacher to see that you don't understand anything she's saying. I desperately wanted the DI program for my kids, but I'm afraid this year has ruined any buy-in or excitement she had for it. Rest assured, for all WJUSD students the lack of action will have consequences. The consequences will become painfully clear in the next 6 months, year, two years. I'd hate for you all to be kicking yourselves thinking, we should have done more, we should have fought harder.

Sincerely,

Amanda Linares

---

Dear Board,

My name is Amanda Ahrendt and I am a mom of five. As you can imagine life with a family of seven is busy, but this year has been supremely trying. We were happy to social distance, wear

---

masks, get tested biweekly and even stay home for the holidays to prevent the transmission of Covid. As the new year approached we saw a new set of challenges as three of the seven members of my family had to be put on medicine for depression, one of them being a Junior at Pioneer High School ( a 4.0+ student). My children have all expressed depression, sadness, loneliness and a lack of desire to continue school. It is a sad day when your child who is a cheerful, happy, overachieving girl tells you she doesn't know if she wants to continue living because she is consumed with sadness. Being in the house 100% of the time isn't healthy for anyone. My freshman in high school is doing well in school but mentally and physically he doesn't have friends, doesn't have to exercise in his classes like they should and has told me several times he hasn't felt like he learned a single thing this year. My kindergartner is consistently crying and melting down about having to go to school because he hates the "computer school and wants to see his friends." Our nightly tradition has always been to ask our children what they learned in school that day and for the last year the consistent answer is nothing. My kids are not being taught. They are told to write essays in writing styles they haven't learned, are expected to review things they have already learned because the teachers don't have time to teach new subjects. 3 hours a day is NOT enough time in person or virtually to teach my English only son kindergarten level English and Spanish. 90% of the work my kindergartner does is asynchronous but he cannot read so the packet requires adult help, his homework on Seesaw requires adult help, and his Epic reading program has quizzes which require adult help. No wonder a LARGE amount of students are failing. As parents we decided not to be teachers for a reason. We have full time jobs to take care of our families. We need our kids back in school. My plea to you as a member of the board is to fight. We need to fight for the mental, physical, and emotional health of our students as well as teachers. With the new guidelines from the CDC for the health and safety of students regarding class size, California's regulations about the ability to return to schooling in person and the vaccine that is now readily available there is no reason we cannot get these kids back into school. There are lives on the line as well as the future of our Country. These kids are our future and we need them to be alive, well educated and mentally stimulated to prosper.

Thank you,  
Sincerely,  
Amanda Ahrendt

---

Our kids need to be back in school FULL TIME, this we ask of you!  
I'm a mother of nine year old twins in 3rd graders at Plainfield Elementary.  
The mental health in our house is an all time low. As a mother I am doing my best to keep spirit up and my children engaged.  
Not only mental health but physically health, obesity has taken a toll! I have also tried my best but this goes hand in hand with DEPRESSION!  
Yolo County is now in the orange tier. This is the first time we've been in the orange tier since the tier system was implemented last summer. This is the best time to **fully re-open** our schools!!  
We are all also aware of the recent changes to CDC guidelines and CDPH now allow for 3 foot distancing between students and should allow for more in-person hours.

The proposed hybrid schedule is insufficient and does not meet the needs of Woodland children. It also poses significant hardship to parents and teachers.

Our neighboring Natomas school district is re-opening five days a week on 4/12 based on the change in public health guidance. Many Placer county schools have been back full time since the fall! We recently just travel to Texas. I know that their governor has lifted their mask mandate, but we felt safe and still masked up. Observing the schools in the areas throughout the state on a 7 day trip-They were open, some WITHOUT masks.

In Some Texas counties they are allowing students to be mask free during recess, PE and lunchtime.

Many schools across the country have been open since August I believe that our students deserve the same right!

There's no reason Woodland can't do the same.

There are way too many VALID points above that PROVE we can open schools, full time-NOW!

Thank you for your time!

Emily Tidwell

---

Good Evening Trustees and Superintendent,

I'm writing you this evening as a joined force with many Woodland parents and students who want their schools open for longer than the proposed schedule. It's very frustrating that schools around us have been opened since the fall and are extending their schedules to full time. Once again WJUSD is behind and we are just barely opening with a half day hybrid model. Now our state and local officials say students can be 3 feet apart rather than six. What is the plan for a schedule change before the school year ends? It will be unacceptable if there is not a change. Our children shouldn't have to suffer any longer. Excuses of more time or funding are unacceptable, you've had enough of both. We are in orange tier and could possibly be in yellow before the year ends. Reopening with a higher capacity and longer days needs to be at the top of the priority list. Our children deserve more than what you are providing.

Parent of a Tafoya 5th grader

---

Hello Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard;

As I'm sure you are aware, the CDPH has revised its distancing recommendations from 6 to 3 feet between students, based on a change in the CDC guidelines, and based on a large study that showed no significant differences in spread when comparing these distances.

During Thursday's board meeting, President Whitaker anticipated this possibility, and stated that such changes "may enable some further discussions between now and the end of the school year" about in person learning schedules.

This change in CDPH guidance and the fact that this week Yolo County made it into the Orange Tier now makes it possible for our kids to attend a more robust in person learning opportunities; to exceed the current proposal of less than 6 hours of instruction for our most vulnerable populations (i.e. TK-6; Special Ed).

With most of the districts around us increasing their in person learning time, including Natomas Unified School District and countless others; it does not sit well with the parents of WJUSD to have the minimal on site instruction time as planned for the April 12th re-opening.

---

Now is the time for you to do your part to ensure that the loss of learning is minimized and whatever instruction we can safely administer be implemented at once. Do this for our KIDS!  
Sincerely,  
Megan Randles

---

Dear members of the board,  
I am writing to ask you to allow students to return to school full time this spring. The hybrid schedule does not offer enough hours for students. We are in the Orange tier now, and it is safe for students to go back to the classroom full time.  
Please do what is best for the students in Woodland. We need you to fight for us.  
Signed,  
A Frustrated 6th grader

---

Dear WJUSD Board Members and Superintendent Tom Prichard,  
Hello, I'm a mother of two elementary school children at Tafoya Elementary school. They've been doing distant learning for exactly 1 year. No contact with their peers, teacher or friends. They've been on the screen more than their own lifetime. Our kids need to be back in school full time. Here are several reasons why:  
Recent changes to CDC guidelines and CDPH now allow for 3 foot distancing between students and should allow for more in-person hours.  
Yolo County is now in the orange tier. This is the first time we've been in the orange tier since the tier system was implemented last summer. This is the best time to fully re-open our schools!!  
The proposed hybrid schedule is insufficient and does not meet the needs of Woodland children. It also poses significant hardship to parents and teachers.  
Our neighboring Natomas school district is re-opening five days a week on 4/12 based on the change in public health guidance. Many Placer county schools have been back full time since the fall! There's no reason Woodland can't do the same. Please reconsider this 2 half day hybrid model. It's not going to benefit our students after all this time when you could allow them 5 FULL days instead and allow the online students to be concurrent with them.  
Thank you for listening.  
Sincerely,  
Meredith Komula  
Parent from WJUSD Reopening GROUP

---

Trustees,  
I write to you tonight to ask that you continue to fight for the children of WJUSD. I understand that you are likely tired of the fight, I know that I am, but being tired is no reason to stop pushing for better. I know that you likely feel like everything has been wrapped up for this school year and that it's time to start planning for next year. I agree that it is time to start planning for next year but with the recent changes to CDPH's guidance and Yolo County's upgrade to the Orange Tier I ask that you put this year back on the table. I am sure many are thinking why bother; we've already come to terms with the unions, the school year is almost over, look at all the work we've put in already but I ask that you look at it from a child's

---

perspective. Our children want to be in the classroom and they want to be there as much as possible. When I asked my children if they had anything they wanted to share with those making decisions my 2nd grader said "I want to see my teacher and other kids, I want to have the chance to make friends. I think the computer is getting a little crazy for me, it's hard with it being glitchy. I miss being with my teacher and classmates." My Kindergartner said "I want to be in school and be with my friends and see my teacher." To me their words say how important having a relationship with their teacher and classmates is to them. The things they didn't say are the things that I see them struggle with everyday. My 2nd grade son has been struggling with a new emotion this year, anger. This is an emotion that he is struggling with how to process as it is so new to a typically sweet, loving and respectful child. I have seen this emotion grow stronger at times when he feels disconnected from his class and teacher or when he's frustrated about still being on a computer. My Kinder daughter has been struggling with her school work, it feels like she is falling further behind everyday. She is easily distracted, unmotivated and disengaged. She is one that thrives when working with others and craves that motivation. These are just the stories of my two children, I know there so many more. I ask that you listen to the stories of all the WJUSD students and fight for their needs. I ask that you put them first and find a way to get them back in the classroom for more than 6 hours a week. You are the ones that have the power to provide the better that our children need.

A Concerned Parent,  
Michelle Armstrong

---

Trustee's and Executive Staff,

My name is Christopher Armstrong. I am a father of a kindergartner and 2<sup>nd</sup> grader in the WJUSD. I am also a Firefighter and Adjunct Instructor for multiple Community Colleges around the Northern California Region. My friends and coworkers have seen first-hand the damage and destruction that COVID has brought to our communities over the last year. I have had coworkers cry on my shoulder as they share their stories of holding the hands of their patients as they take their last breaths alone. I have seen the depression set in on those I am around every day as they know that very little, they have done has changed the outcome that this pandemic has brought onto their patients and our neighbors. I guess in a lot of ways I have become numb to it all. However, I am also on the front lines of the next great pandemic that our country is about to face. Depression and PTSD. I have responded to multiple juveniles that have attempted suicide over the past few months. My crew and I have been lucky to this point to not have any of them be successful. I fear that day and know that possibility lay right around the corner every time my alarm goes off. My bigger fear is leaving my home every tour knowing that my 8-year-old son is starting to show signs of depression and fear and he is now lashing out in anger over his frustrations. None of these traits are anything that he has ever exhibited in the past. His previous teachers and principals always commented about his compassion and sweet kind nature. He and I have a special saying about the secret to life. That's to always "be humble and kind". Every day we discuss his frustrations with a system that has not been working for him for some time. He doesn't understand why his dad can go to a classroom 2-3 times a week, interact with over 200 adult students in a semester and yet he can't return to the classroom with 25 children. My kindergartner is so disengaged that she spends most of her class time watching you tube videos on the district issued chrome books including ads from

VRBO that are showing adults rolling around in a bed and ask me to rent the tree house they are advertising. All of this is completely unacceptable and has been for a while. Now the county has moved into the Orange Tier and the trends are moving in a positive direction. I do NOT want to see us lose our progress, but I also do not want to see the outcome on our children if we refuse to change course. I am a former Executive Vice President of the union and always value an executive team and elected board that values their employee's concerns and opinions. But when I have lost during a labor session, I understand the other side has to answer to the public. We are past all of that however!!!! The Unions place is wages, benefits, and working conditions. I have heard they are concerned about safety and I am too frankly. But if you follow the state and local guidelines you will be providing that safety. So in essence this is about the tax payers that have elected you and their children that everyone is here to serve. I urge you to wait no longer and re open the district to 5 days a week in class setting and allow these kids to be kids. I don't want to hear that concurrent instruction is too difficult, I have been doing that at the college level since July. I hope I never have to share my experiences of what I may see with any of you to make this point more real.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Armstrong

---

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees,

My name is Michaela Baer, and I am a first grade teacher at Tafoya Elementary School. My public comment is regarding action item J.3.

Last week I submitted a [public comment](#) that provided a narrative of my concerns regarding the phase 3 schedules. My concern continues to be about the lack of teacher prep time in the phase 3 schedule, and the negative impact it will have on both our ability to provide quality instruction to our students and teacher well being.

Our previous MOU before the pandemic included 125 minutes of prep time for elementary teachers per week. My phase 3 schedule will give me 135 minutes of prep time each week, which I acknowledge meets the requirement.

**However, here are some notes on comparing my phase 3 prep time to other phases of instruction this year:**

~During phase 2, we were given 30 minutes of prep time every day during the lunch block.

~During phase 1 and phase 2, the district gave us from 2:00-3:00 as non-student time.

~During phase 2, we had from 12:30-2:00 on Wednesday dedicated as grade level collaboration time. (We will now have to choose between personal prep time and grade level collaboration time.)

In conclusion, my current phase 2 schedule gives me 240 minutes a week of non student time in the afternoon, 150 minutes of prep time during lunch, and 90 minutes of collaboration time each week. **This is a total of 480 minutes of time during my contract days to prepare to do my job well.** While I acknowledge this has been a generous amount of time, I still work outside of my contract day to prepare lessons, contact parents, check asynchronous work, and update attendance based on work completion.

**The phase 3 schedule will give me only 135 minutes of prep time per week. This is 345 more minutes live with students each week. Is this not an increase to our workload? When will I prepare quality lessons for my students?**



The question is whether or not teaching in person and online to groups A, B, and C will be more work than when we were teaching before the pandemic. If you agree that teaching all these groups is more work, then we should be given more prep time than we had before the pandemic. Also, before the pandemic I had 5 hours of instruction with students each day, and the phase 3 schedule will require 6 hours of instruction. Per MOU 2.12- "The district shall make every effort to avoid increases to unit member workload." I would argue that 4 additional hours of instruction each week is an increase to our workload.

This week, I would like to share some of the research I have been doing about schedules for other school districts in our region.

The Sacramento City Unified School District MOU gives elementary teachers a minimum of 90 minutes of prep during asynchronous time (each day).

[https://returntogether.scusd.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/mou\\_-\\_scta\\_reopening\\_schools\\_.pdf](https://returntogether.scusd.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/mou_-_scta_reopening_schools_.pdf)

The Elk Grove Unified School District MOU gives 1st grade teachers 45 minutes of prep time each day plus 45 minutes for distance learning management, Synergy updates, and family communication for a total of 90 minutes a day.

<http://www.egusd.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/EGUSD-EGEA-Addendum-2.19.21-Complete.pdf>

While I could not find the MOU for Vacaville Unified School District, their schedule has a lunch block from 11:00-12:45, which would presumably include teacher lunch AND prep time.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ProuuBXG2NQGc1IkMB1Wq\\_kj8ztjCm0/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ProuuBXG2NQGc1IkMB1Wq_kj8ztjCm0/view)

*(However, it is unclear if these teachers are delivering online instruction between 11-12:45.)*

In Natomas Joint Unified School District, there are schedules posted on school websites, which indicate teachers have a 50 minute lunch and break, plus 60 minutes of prep each day. Here are 2 examples:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vBkTVTIEDW4le1jSv5Z9QDDBEdhLZmG/view>

<https://natomasunified.org/content/uploads/2021/03/WRE-Transitional-Elementary-Reopening-Schedule.pdf>

Last week, I also shared with you information about Westlake Charter School in Natomas, which has a similar schedule to our phase 3 schedule, EXCEPT there is a 1.5 hour lunch block (to include teacher prep as noted in the YouTube video and screen shot below).

<https://westlakecharter.com/return-to-school-fall-2021/>

Here is video you can watch as well: <https://youtu.be/drAcMCMFZts>

**In conclusion, I have not found any school districts that are giving teachers less than an hour of prep time a day.** I encourage you to do some research as well.

I would like to end by making a suggestion. A simple way to fix this problem is to reduce the number of minutes we are live on Zoom each afternoon. The state of California has not indicated any specific number of live instructional minutes for students. YOU -- the school board and district-- have full power to determine the number of minutes we are synchronous with students each day.

Please respect us as professionals. More is not always better. Let's think about **quality over quantity**, and prove to the community that you care about the teacher's well being too.

Sincerely,

Michaela Baer

---

Trustees, Executive Staff, and Superintendent Pritchard:

Due to the recent change in CDC guidelines and CDPH now allows for 3-foot distancing (from center) between students, our children need to be back in school. Full time, 5 days per week. Yolo County is now in the orange tier, which justifies reopening our schools. The proposed hybrid schedule is insufficient and does not meet the needs of our children. In addition, it is a significant hardship to teachers and parents alike.

There are numerous districts in California reopening full time effective 4/12/2021 (or before), including but not limited to: Natomas Unified, Vista Unified, Chino Valley, etc. Pierce Unified, and Maxwell Unified have already reopened full-time. Why can't WJUSD? Our scientific numbers support reopening full time. If you take the time to view the following link it specifically shows those schools that have reopened full-time or plan to in the near future: [https://maps.schools.covid19.ca.gov/public.html?fbclid=IwAR3nJwwRPwvPU80NngwXfeLgr\\_6h0w5Dj-lLnYUa8AE2Zz-i7svUIqN2qGVE](https://maps.schools.covid19.ca.gov/public.html?fbclid=IwAR3nJwwRPwvPU80NngwXfeLgr_6h0w5Dj-lLnYUa8AE2Zz-i7svUIqN2qGVE)

Moreover, our district has received \$18,161,612 in funding specifically for the safe reopening of our schools pursuant to the above-mentioned website. I trust that these funds were appropriately spent on our schools, getting them ready to reopen.

Again, we need to stress that the students in Woodland are the priority to re-open with as many in person hours as possible. Traditional teaching has kids being taught in the class Monday through Friday. Kids do not have the attention or emotional span to tolerate any more distance "learning". Our Woodland students are in distress. I cannot begin to tell you how many other parents consistently tell me their kids are depressed and tired of being stuck at home, especially when they see their friends going to school in person (Woodland Christian). It's disheartening to hear and I see it in my own child. School is ESSENTIAL.

You, as our elected officials, need listen to the parent's requests to take the proper steps to ensure that our children go back to school, in person full time, effective immediately. If parents wish to keep their children in a distance learning type environment, they can be directed towards the K-8 program and/or Independent Learning Center. If teachers do not wish to return to school in person, they can be added as teachers for those programs and teachers who want to be in class can be hired. There are no other options for the District at this time. Do what is right by our children. Get them back in school now.

Sincerely,

Kathi Stokes

Parent of an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade WJUSD Student

---

Dear Board,

The last year has been nothing short of life changing. We have all experienced a roller coaster of emotions. Fear. Worry. Wonder. Shock.. But now I am holding onto hope. Hope that you are listening to these letters. I mean, really listening to every word with intent. Hope that you feel what our children are feeling. Hope that we have elected the right board to carry us through these times. Hope that every decision you make, you believe is the right one with every ounce of your being. Hope that we are following the science and the ever changing guidelines.

Parents, teachers, and children have all been forced to adapt. We expected that of them. Actually, it was demanded of them. They had no choice in the matter. You know where I have not seen change and a willingness to adapt? The district and the board. The plan you created months ago does not serve us today. I find it baffling (to put it nicely) that this is the best we can do.

I worry every single day about our children. And I do not mean just mine. I often think about the kids who were so far behind, but came to school with hope because there was someone there who cared about them. Who showed up for them every single day. I think about the kids who thrive in school and look forward to soaking up every ounce of knowledge they can get. These moments can not be replicated through a computer screen.

As I was writing this the quote by Maya Angelou came to mind.

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better"

We know more, lets do more.

Kindly,

Sarah Yob

---

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees,

In my opinion, the proposed hybrid schedule is insufficient and does not meet the needs of WJUSD students. I won't go into too much detail of the negative effects that distance learning has had on my daughter, a 2nd grader at Beamer Park Elementary School. Since my daughter's kinder enrollment, we've been absolutely pleased with the staff and dual-immersion program at the school. To see her grow, learn and be able to understand language arts, math and science in both English and Spanish is absolutely phenomenal. However, over the past year she has lost her confidence to utilize her spanish speaking skills. And maybe that is on us, as her parents. But one thing I have noticed over the past year with distance learning is that when it comes to school and academics, my daughter simply does not respond positively when either my husband or I sit down with her and review her lessons with her. Maybe it's because she is in the comfort of her own home and not a school-like setting. Maybe it's because she sees my husband and me as her parents, not educators, and therefore, she feels like she is being disciplined when we are simply trying to provide some added value to her daily academics. I am confident that my experience is shared by hundreds of parents in our school district.

As a parent, I don't understand why our schools cannot fully reopen for the rest of the 2020/2021 school year. The majority of teachers and admin staff have been vaccinated. Recent changes to CDC guidelines and the CDPH now allow for 3-foot distancing between students, which should allow for more in-person hours. Our neighboring school district, Natomas is reopening 5 days a week. Placer County reopened their schools last fall. And Yolo County is currently in the orange tier! Not to mention, Woodland Christian School and Holy Rosary, with their growing class sizes due to the number of ex-WJUSD students, have been open 5 days a week for some time and have not seen an uptick in COVID cases. There is no reason why WJUSD can't do the same.

Please reconsider opening full time for the remainder of this school year. Do it for the students and for the community members that elected you into your positions.

Thank you,

Kiyomi Morales

---

Dear board of trustees and superintendent Pritchard,  
Effective teachers need time to plan and prepare their lessons. I want my child's teacher to have enough time to plan effective lessons. This can be accomplished by reducing the scheduled screen time minutes in the afternoons and building in more teacher preparation time. As parents, we call upon WJUSD to implement reasonable hybrid elementary schedules that will make it possible for our valued classroom teachers to do their jobs.

---

WJUSD School Board,

I am the father of a 1st grader at SciTech Academy. As you have undoubtedly seen, the California Department of Public Health have adopted the new CDC guidelines stating that social distancing in school children can be safely reduced, and that 3 feet social distancing is "strongly recommended" but not required, as long as other safety measures are in place and enforced in schools. In light of these new guidelines, I am writing to STRONGLY encourage WJUSD to revise their reopening plan to allow for significantly MORE in-person instruction time for all students. Since social distancing requirements have been relaxed, this allows for more students on buses and more students in classrooms. This makes it unnecessary to have "A" and "B" cohorts of children attend on different days, and means that we can make a more substantial move toward a full-time reopening.

Natomas Unified has already announced that they will be welcoming students back on campus five days a week starting April 12. I insist that WJUSD make changes to the reopening plan that are equally decisive and swift. I have faith that WJUSD and our teachers will welcome these new guidelines as a sign that a more substantial reopening is possible and recommended based on scientific evidence. It will be a sign of poor leadership if these new guidelines are not acted upon appropriately.

Blaine Christiansen

---

Dear Board of Trustees,

Today, on our 130<sup>th</sup> day of zoom school this school year, we lost internet for about 15 minutes. Although it isn't the first time we've lost internet this year, my three elementary students tend to react the same way each time. A lot of worry, stress about not getting back on fast enough, and a lot of tears from my youngest about falling behind and missing lessons.

This morning, like many other days, I had a conversation with them about being flexible and adaptable. Making adjustments when situations change. Doing the best we can with what we have available to us.

These are important lessons for all children to learn, and most have been living and practicing them regularly for the last year. Adapting to doing school from home. Adjusting to masking up and distancing in public. Doing the best we can during long periods of stay-at-home orders. Being flexible in the ever-changing school, community and home environments.

Our Board of Trustees and WJUSD administration team now need to be examples of these traits as well. When we know more information about COVID and our schools, when the health of our community improves, and when the safety requirements in schools from our national health organizations change, so must we.

Adapt the classrooms to the new 3 foot spacing requirement

Adjust the number of students that can attend in person  
Be flexible with moving away from the 2 day hybrid when that is not longer necessary  
And ultimately **do the very best you can for all students by getting them back into school full-time this school year.**

Are all the admin and teacher staff knee-deep in getting campuses and classrooms ready for the previously agreed upon hybrid schedule? Yes. Will it be a huge shift from all departments and staff to make the move to a full-day Phase 4 approach, with so much work being done already on hybrid? Absolutely. But that doesn't mean it shouldn't be done.

The best interests of the students must always be paramount. Even if that means abandoning the work done so far to move to a better plan.

Adjust. Adapt. Be flexible. Do the best you can. Even when it's hard.

Incredible life lessons for a school to demonstrate to its students.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Johnson

---

Dear Mr. Pritchard & Board Members,

So glad you clarified at the meeting last Thursday that WJUSD follows CALIFORNIA Public Health guidelines first before CDC. So I'm sure you'll agree with me that it is EXCELLENT news that our state has changed the recommended distance between students in classrooms to be 3 feet now!!

This combined with our local community moving into the Orange tier is just the push you need to move forward with redesigning your reopening plan and hybrid schedule to better serve our struggling students. Let's open elementary schools full time 4/12! Or how about 4 days a week and give Wednesday to teachers for prep? Let's get creative and find a solution. 5 hours a week is not acceptable.

I hope you find peace knowing that your decision to do so can be supported by hard data and official changes in safety policy rather than just increasing pressure from desperate parents. Let's do the right thing! Parents are here to support you if you are here to support our students.

Let's show our students that in person education isn't only for the wealthy. Let's close the divide in our community between those that can and those that cannot afford in-person education. If you continue to preach equity and opportunity, getting ALL students back in their classrooms should be your top priority.

Prove that you stand behind your words.

Thank you,  
Emily Murphey

---

Dear WJUSD Board,

This comment pertains to the Hybrid Learning/Reopening Plan.

I am the parent of a first grader at Sci-Tech Elementary. The hybrid learning schedule proposed for Phase 3 is completely unacceptable for many reasons. But, as parents, we were told that a hybrid model would be required to meet the many state and local guidelines in place for a safe reopening. In particular, the students need to be split into A and B groups, in part, to meet the strict 6-ft social distancing policy imposed by CDPH.

As I'm sure you are aware, new data has emerged and the CDC and CDPH now only require 3 ft social distancing between students. This change was immediately embraced by many school districts, both nationally and locally, as an opportunity to bring more children on campus for more in-person hours, to help them make up for over a year of learning loss. Indeed, within days of the CDPH adopting the new guidelines, the Natomas school district announced a simple plan to discontinue A/B groups, and instead combine them to allow students to attend in-person school for twice as many hours. They were given new information, and immediately made a new plan that puts student needs at the forefront.

What will WJUSD do with this new information? If past actions are any indication, I fear you will do nothing. Instead, students and parents will hear excuses about not enough time, or difficult negotiations, or outdated plans. Please, put the students first, and revise the hybrid learning model to account for the new data and guidelines.

Crystal Ripplinger

---

My name is Mason Cochran-Counts, I am a sixth grade student at Plainfield Elementary. I am writing this letter to you because COVID has been very hard for many of us and I can probably say we are all getting tired of it. I remember when we were still in school it was a lot easier for me to do my work and to be happy, I feel many people would agree with me. I know that people might be scared or worried about going back to school because different things like getting sick or not having enough space. But at this point we have all been through so much, why don't we just try, try for us, try for our mental health, try for our happiness. I am assuming that most kids would go pretty far to be back in school, back to seeing their friends, but having fun and socializing. I know it might be hard to get all the stuff prepared and ready, even though you have had about a year to prepare but you still have till April 12! All I'm asking is for you to try and make my life better and others lives better by opening schools. I hope you will take some time to think about my letter or others' letters and open schools please.

Maison Cochran-Counts

---

To Whom It May Concern:

At first our family was excited that school would be going back in April. As we have learned more, we have lost some of that excitement. For my 10 year old 5th grader, who is already struggling tremendously with distance learning, the new hybrid schedule is not a solution. Yes, he will be back in school some. But what about the days he is home? He will be expected to be more self reliant. Spend more time on his own in front of the computer. And then he will have to shake things up and go to school, adjust to new behaviors, cram all of his questions, social needs and cravings into a few hours a day. This is unacceptable. Our district can and should do more. These children deserve more. I lost my happy, healthy, active, social child during the last year. All he wants is to be back in school, 5 days a week and not learning from home anymore. BACK IN SCHOOL! I never thought I would hear our children begging to be in school! Please re-adjust your plans. Let them back more days, more hour. Our county has progressed quickly since the original plan was placed for kids to go back. The plan should be revised to match. Our children have been lacking a sufficient education for over a year now. They should not have to wait one day longer than absolutely necessary. Please take every action, every step, every measure you can to make this happen in the timeliest of manners.

Sincerely a very concerned Parent,  
Hayley Moreno

---

Estimada Mesa Directiva y Sr. Pritchard,

El propósito de mi carta es pedir que consideren abrir las escuelas a tiempo completo el día 12 de abril o en cuanto nuestro condado llegue a la zona amarilla.

Creo que ya saben de todas las consecuencias que han sufrido nuestros hijos a cabo de tener que aprender de casa desde marzo del año pasado. Esta situación no es saludable para su estado emocional ni su estado físico. Esta situación tampoco es buena para su aprendizaje. Todo esto ya lo sabe todo el mundo, me pregunto porqué no considerar abrir las escuelas a tiempo completo.

Me gustaría pedir una explicación a mi pregunta. Si nuestro condado está haciendo lo necesario para llevar un buen control sobre esta pandemia entonces por qué el distrito escolar no está haciendo lo necesario para proveer el servicio que nuestros hijos merecen.

He escuchado que varios maestros se quejan por los nuevos horarios de clase que se aprobaron para la fase 3. Muchos padres tampoco están de acuerdo. Llevar a los chicos a la escuela medio día 2 veces por semana no es lo que necesitamos. Los padres necesitan regresar a trabajar de tiempo completo, los maestros necesitan enseñar a tiempo completo, los alumnos necesitan regresar a su horario de clase a tiempo completo. Si otros distritos escolares a nuestros alrededores lo están haciendo, ¿por qué nosotros no?

Por favor corrijan este error lo más pronto posible y pidan que las escuelas abran a tiempo completo lo más pronto posible. Por favor hagan su trabajo, ya que fueron elegidos para servir a nuestros alumnos y exijan que los alumnos se puedan presentar de tiempo completo empezando el 12 de abril o en cuanto Woodland llegue a la zona amarilla de la métrica de Covid.

—  
Dear Board Members and Mr. Pritchard,

The purpose of my letter is to ask that you consider opening schools full time on April 12th or as soon as our county reaches the yellow tier.

I think you already know all the consequences our children have suffered from having to learn from home since March of last year. This situation is not healthy for their emotional state or their physical state. This situation is not good for their learning either. If everyone already knows all of this, I wonder why not consider opening schools full time?

I would like to ask for an explanation of my question. If our county is doing what it takes to get a good handle on this pandemic then why isn't the school district doing what it takes to provide the service our children deserve.

I have heard several teachers complain about the new class schedules that were approved for phase 3. Many parents also disagree. Taking the kids to school for half a day 2 times a week is not what we need. Parents need to return to work full time, teachers need to teach full time, students need to return to their class schedule full time. If other school districts around us are doing it, why aren't we?

Please correct this error as soon as possible and request that schools open full time as soon as possible. Please do your job as you were chosen to serve our students and require that students

be able to report full time beginning April 12 or as soon as Woodland reaches the yellow tier of the Covid metric.

---

Hello Board of Trustees,

I will make this short so as to not take much of your time. I request that employees be able to have workplace flexibility and leave once in person commitments are done and students leave for the day. Without this flexibility, due to childcare concerns, I, and many others may be forced to take a leave of absence which will certainly affect our students. This could all be fixed very easily with a bit more flexibility. Please allow us to do our jobs and not have to make this difficult choice.

Thank you

---

Trustee's and Executive Staff,

My name is Monica Marcheschi. I am the parent of 2 children in school, one in 2nd grade and the other in 9th grade.

With recent changes to CDC guidelines of 3 ft apart, I cannot understand why our kids are not back in school full time. I was so upset when I watched the board meeting 2 weeks ago and they announced only 3 hours of school, twice a week. The only words that came to my mind were shame on you. Even the terrible explanation from Pritchard of, "well we didn't really lie to the parents" made my blood boil. Many parents that I've talked to listen to these board meetings and want to pull their hair out. The proposed hybrid schedule is insufficient and does not meet the needs of the children. It poses significant hardships for working parents and teachers.

My husband runs a nursing home. Last year his facility had an outbreak of covid and I didn't see him for 30 days. I wondered if he would ever come home again. We've all made sacrifices. I'm fully aware of the risks of covid and I know that the word "safe" is truly overused. We will never be truly safe. Putting our kids in a car every day is not truly safe. We have to adapt and and open our schools now because we will never be truly safe from covid. You could compare vaccinations to seatbelts and soon our teachers will be fully vaccinated, so let's go! Yolo county is now in the orange tier, so this is the best time to fully reopen schools. We cannot remain shut down forever. The teachers are being vaccinated and we have no other excuses.

Our neighboring Natomas school district is re-opening five days a week on 4/12 based on the change in public health guidance. Many Placer county schools have been back full time since the fall. What are we waiting for?

My 9th grader is a straight A student. She recently was asked by her school how she was successful. Her reply was that she pushed through the loneliness and headaches daily. She is stuck in her room on a computer all day staring at a screen. She wants to stay at Pioneer but I may have to pull her out and put her into an in-person private school. I didn't expect this distance learning to last this long. She mentions that some of the kids that she knows don't want to go back to school because then they can't play their video games all day.

Do the right thing for our kids and open our school full time. Make it happen.

---

Greetings Board Members and Superintendent,

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Also, thank you for at last moving forward with

---



returning to the classroom. My question is around the CDC's most recent update to social distancing guidelines. Will you be having the schools update their policies about desk placement, and proximity of students in line, etc? Will that be up to each school to decide? Is there any chance that this new information will allow for more days in person, because of the ability to have more kids in a classroom? We are so eager and excited to get back in there! Again, thanks for your time.

Melissa Armstrong  
2 boys in 5th and 2nd at Sci Tech

---

Dear Board of Trustees and Superintendent,

I'm a teacher of 18 years in this district. I'm writing to you with concerns about the Phase 3 schedule.

First- workplace flexibility

Many teachers, including myself have students attending WJUSD schools. Some have kids at multiple sites. We will be forced to take leave, or use sub days in order to pick up our own kids and take them home. This will have a direct impact on students. Please allow for workplace flexibility.

Second- lack of adequate prep time

Teachers already work before, and after school hours to prep, plan, grade, and prepare meaningful lessons for our students. We work nights, weekends, holidays. The schedule that you have the power to amend does not provide enough time for teachers to do their best work to plan and prepare quality lessons to their students. Please amend the schedule to reflect the time necessary for teachers to prep, plan and prepare rigorous lessons.

\*please see Michaela Baer's letter with nearby district schedules and how they are answering the call to support quality teaching and respect teacher work days.

Thank you for your time,

Roseanna O'Quelly

---

To whom it concerns..(hopefully)

Tonight, you will have another opportunity to do what is right. I am really having difficulty understanding why school opening full time is even a question anymore?? The CDC has changed their guidelines for distancing for school age children and the county has moved to orange tier. Other districts have had fully open schools with no significant issues for a while now. What is keeping Woodland from doing the same? Are you choosing to ignore the CDC guidelines that school is safe to open? Are you picking and choosing what you listen to to suit your agenda? You literally have no facts that you can use to justify keeping kids at home. It's either fear, greed or both I presume? Sad that you have somehow anointed yourself "protector" of what is right for our children. That's actually a parents role and if you cared about the kids you would already be open. Schools need to open to full time learning immediately. I can't have my kindergartner miss her entire first year of school because of cowardice, fear and greed! Ridiculous

---

Hello WJUSD District Members.

---

My name is William and I am a senior at Woodland High School. My mother is an employee within the district. My sister also is enrolled in Wjuds. Last year, my sister was diagnosed with a rare and deadly lung disease called Valley Fever, which she is continuing to battle with an already collapsed lung. In the fall, my mom was able to make the decision to work from home vs working on campus in order to protect her and the rest of our family. Now that we are beginning to open back up, she was no longer able to make the decision, but has to apply to work from home. Recently, she brought home the news that despite asking for workplace flexibility and asking to apply for a distance learning position, which she was told would be an option, she was told that they were denied, that distance learning positions no longer existed, and that she was not eligible for any ADA accommodations such as being able to work from home. Later, when I reached out voicing my concerns, they told her that she can apply for FMLA.

To say that I am disappointed with the District is an extreme understatement. While I understand the want to get students and teachers back in the classroom, the inability of this district to understand the necessity for some teacher's continuation of working from home is something I can not understand. There's not only a lack of understanding among the board, but also a lack of using all resources available to us. For example, you are "saving money" by not doing Covid tests although there are funds that are specifically allocated for testing. You said that you would buy the necessary equipment that each teacher asked for to prevent the spread of the virus, but you instead buy the wrong sized filters, and cut them to make them fit in the vents, but by doing so, decreased their effectiveness. If you would like the list of supplies the teachers asked for I will gladly share it with you seeing as every single request was denied. You also lied to the teachers, convincing them to come back to work under the false pretense that those with medically fragile family members would receive accommodations- not unpaid leave. It seems the members of this district put in minimal effort into reopening for an entire year, and when the state offered money that would further increase everyone's safety, even less effort was put forth, and the members of this board decided to close their eyes and rolled the dice, taking any outcome, with no regard to how many lives it could effect. My parents and I, along with dozens of other students and families have voiced our concerns, but it seems they have either fallen on deaf ears, or were silenced before they got heard.

Regarding my mom, she has worked for WJUSD for more than 20 years. She has organized various events to support the students and her school, and goes above and beyond for her students everyday. Though one might believe that teaching in person will be better for her, that is not necessarily true, especially during our current world situation. I watch her teach her class every once in a while, and while I'm not watching her teach from my own computer screen, it is clear to me that her methods of teaching are nothing but phenomenal. She is able to get the kids to not only engage in the assignment at hand, but she is also capable of conveying information in a way that makes it easy for the students to retain it.

So, even with the return to school plan, she has proven that she is completely capable of teaching her class at home in order to ensure maximum safety for her daughter's life. Now, night after night I listen to my parents stress as to how she's going to rewrite her lesson plan and how she runs her classroom for the third time this year, as well as how she can teach kids in a way where it mitigates the chance of her bringing Covid-19 back to my sister, because if my sister gets it, it is a death sentence.

To say that she has dedicated her life to the students of WJUSD, and the district as a whole, is an understatement. She needs to support our family, therefore, will go to work the safest way possible, and continue to give her life to WJUSD and its students. I can only hope that my sister doesn't have to give hers as well.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response.

William.

---

Dear Woodland Joint School District Trustees,

My name is Alexis, and I am a sophomore at Pioneer High School. I am writing this letter to share my thoughts about virtual learning, and to ask you to consider a proposal to allow students to return to campus!

Currently, I am living in a foster home due to several unfortunate incidents. I was not safe in my home. I cannot imagine how many other students in our community are in danger, living in abusive or neglectful homes with zero school guidance. For me, personally, school has always been my safe place! I'm certain thousands of other students in Yolo County feel the same way. I beg you to consider students who may be fighting depression, anxiety and self-harm. Without the opportunity to interact with their teachers and peers, I am positive that those numbers have increased. Socialization is critically important to all human beings. I am blessed to now be living in a safe and loving home, but many students are not.

In addition to mental health concerns, I am worried that distance learning is pushing my classmates and myself behind academically, and jeopardizing our future career goals. Virtual learning is not beneficial to the majority of students. We need to experience hands-on learning and the opportunity to collaborate with our peers in real time.

My recommendation is to immediately open up our schools! Several schools across our state have been open and it's disappointing that WJUSD has failed to do so.

If I (WE) can freely visit grocery stores, malls and restaurants, I should be able to go to school. Students deserve the best possible education, and should have the right to choose what learning structure works best for them. For me to succeed mentally, physically and academically, I need to be in school, on-site and full-time.

Thank you,

Alexis

---

Board and district staff,

I am seeking clarification for all Elementary teachers. The Phase 3 MOU states that:

2.3- The bargaining unit member workday shall remain as described in the collective bargaining agreement. (That's our contract- look at article 17)

2.12- The district shall make every effort to avoid increases to unit member workload.

Is any of this really valid? Have you seen the elementary phase 3 schedule and compared it to a "normal year" schedule.

I'm not sure how teaching from 8:00-3:00 (with hopefully a full 30 minute lunch and a chance to use the restroom) would make any of this true. You have elongated our teaching day. You have elongated the instructional day for students. I teach kindergarten and you have doubled their instructional minutes! 360 minutes for 5 and 6 year olds.

In doing so you have also obliterated our prep time. Being allotted 2 hours once a week to plan

effective lessons for 3 separate groups, prep those lessons, grade assignments, assess, make parent contact, etc. is ridiculous!

I am calling on WJUSD to create a more reasonable elementary phase 3 schedule. One that makes it possible for teachers to effectively do their job.

Sara Birtcil

Kindergarten

Woodland Prairie Elementary

---

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees and Superintendent Pritchard,

I am writing tonight to once again ask that you provide medical and childcare accommodations to WJUSD staff as we return to in-person instruction. Despite your assurance that I need only contact human resources to work through the ADA accommodation process, and despite submitting updated documentation from my doctor, I am still being refused flexibility or reasonable accommodation.

This afternoon, I was finally provided a meeting time for tomorrow with the following response from HR: "Typically, if there is not accommodation I have not scheduled an appointment unless it is specifically requested." It is disingenuous for our district to advertise an ADA accommodations process it has no intention of following. More importantly, refusing to even discuss solutions with me until the Friday before the Monday I'm being pushed to start leave is harmful and disrespectful to my young students and their families.

I want to teach. I don't want my kindergartners to be met by a stranger in an empty classroom next week. I also have a responsibility to my own children and to my health. You have the power to be flexible; you have the power to help me solve this problem at no cost to students, the district, or myself and my family. I look forward to your humanizing response.

Thank you,

Beki Benning

Kindergarten teacher, Tafoya Elementary

---

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees,

Our letter is regarding action item J.3. As Tafoya teachers, we love our jobs and are writing to ask you to support our ability to do our jobs well. We also want to prevent staff leaves that would cause students not to be able to stay with their teachers. The sample elementary hybrid schedule that was attached to the Phase 3 MOU is being interpreted by site principals in a rigid way that will cause unworkable conditions for our members. Effective teachers need time to plan and prepare their lessons.

We call upon WJUSD to implement reasonable hybrid elementary schedules with daily prep time of 30 minutes, by reducing the afternoon virtual instruction time. This would more accurately match the non instruction transition time of the morning group which will have handwashing and post recess entry.

Please allow children of staff to remain in their classroom with a signed waiver.

Please allow workplace flexibility during afternoon virtual instruction.

Sincerely,

Dawn Gibson

Tahnee Sweeney

---

Michaela Baer  
Mary Puente  
Fran Bueno  
Julie Bourdet  
Rebecca Benning  
Roseanna O'Quelly  
Kim Martinez  
Jeff Contreras  
Casey Avalos  
Vicki Emory  
Meredith Riesner  
Lynn Samuels  
Lucy Villegas Woodall  
Melinda Prindle  
Jackie Gonzalez  
Rebecca Macias  
Terri Reynolds  
Jeronimo Rico

---

Hello again folks,

The WJUSD and its board have a long history of disrespecting teachers. Lying to the media, offering pittances a when pounds were provided by the state. Pretending to allow teachers to benefit from surplus by allowing us to put together want lists, only to deny every single item on said list because it did not follow some guidance which was never given.

This has got to be the worst. The pettiness of not allowing PROFESSIONALS to work from a location satellite to school, even though THERE IS ABSOLUTELY no student related reason for the teachers to remain at school.

When parents who teach could better use that time to semi monitor their own kids which you refuse to let go to school in the afternoon. The district created the problem, yet miserly refuses to allow an easy fix.

And the Board, as ALL PREVIOUS BOARDS listens to only one side. It's a wonder that they can even rise from the chairs they are so hidebound to.

I know of no teacher who would not give up their lunch to drive home and teach. We have taught from houses of relatives who were on sickness, from hospital beds, from storm ravaged places... yet we cannot be trusted to be professional by our employer.

The same employer who preaches self care. From now on, save the #ToxicPositivity. You don't really show that you mean it.

If I have to use paid leave, so be it. I will use it piecemeal, afternoons only, period by period.

And I will demand that this district, which has a history of hoarding money like it was personal, pay a sub for every hour they take out of my compensation package

Seriously, what are you trying to accomplish with this? This is piling on, when it's deep enough.

Mike Owens

WJUSD parent

WJUSD Employee (with lowering morale)

---

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 President Whitaker and Board of Trustees,

Many times, it is difficult to predict the unintended consequences of our actions because simply put; we don't know what we don't know. These past 2 weeks, elementary teachers have been working to develop schedules based on the parameters that were given by the District. Many teachers appreciate the efforts to not require concurrent instruction at the elementary level, seeing how developmentally inappropriate this type of instruction would be for our young learners. Not having a virtual academy for our families choosing to remain virtual for the rest of the year means that these students will continue instruction with their classroom teacher. Though we are thankful to keep our students all year, the district's inability to provide this program has now unintentionally increased the workload for teachers. The district has added to our "plates" the responsibility of providing virtual lessons to this group as well as the alternating cohorts. Our new schedule does not provide teachers with the amount of preparation time that will be required to make this hybrid model work. Five minutes at the end

of the day and 60 minutes on Wednesday will not be enough time. Unlike secondary, elementary teachers do not have built in daily prep times which means in reality this work will be done outside of the contract day.

What we are left with is a heaping plate in the hands of already burnt-out teachers who are torn between what is being asked of them and what is humanly possible. Something will have to give. Mirroring the morning session to our afternoon groups is not appropriate because these interactions are completely different. The amount of instructional minutes that happens in-person cannot be duplicated and supplanted to fit a virtual model. Where can we find time to provide meaningful feedback to our students, design engaging in-person activities, and develop grade level appropriate virtual lessons? Students need a balanced day that has elements of teacher interaction and asynchronous work where they can practice. Teachers need a realistic schedule that they can implement effectively where they are given adequate time to prepare.

We appreciate the work that you all have put into ensuring schools open safely by April 12th. This work continues on.

Signed

Yolanda Hudson

Vicki Fu

Maria Lewis

Marjoy Watkins

Socorro Lizarraga

Maria Lefevre

Mayra Molina Garcia

Faustino Ruiz

Lorena Morales

Mayra Cortes

Zenia Medina

Daniella Lozano

Mandy Dye

Daniel Flores

and other tired WJUSD teachers

---

Dear Trustees,

I am writing this letter this afternoon in a plea to get our kids back in the classroom FULLTIME!!! Today was another struggle again to get the kids engaged and focused on school. We had internet outages on top of the resistance and tears of frustration. It is sad to see my kinder not excited to learn or even want to try anymore. She keeps her camera off half of the time. She said it's boring. There is no joy, there is no real social connection. I hear these kids screaming in the mics on top of all the home distractions and the district is expecting our kids to excel? After the district's last half measure to re-open, we parents were shocked to learn it is not even a full day. The schedule is a joke and a disservice to our students. This schedule places a burden and is a hardship to many parents. It is impractical for working parents who cannot take off to pick up and drop off after just a few short hours.

CDC guidelines have changed and said 6ft is no longer a guideline. Schools can operate with a 3feet rule. Yolo County is now in the Orange Teir. Vaccinations and Testing are on the rise and easily accessible, Teachers have received one if not both vaccines. Yolo County's positivity rate is at 0.5%. Our kids are a year behind academically.

I have never understood why it is okay to shop at all the box stores, dine-in restaurants, have people wait in lines but our kids can't be in a classroom.

We know more now than what we did a year ago. It is safe. Our kids need to be back in full-time ASAP!!!! Other districts surrounding us have made the decision to open back up 5 days a week.

WJUSD has had more than enough time to figure this out. Do not wait till August, do it now.

The families who want to stay home can and those who want to return to the classroom deserve to.

Please do not hesitate to make the decision that is in the best interest of the students and families and return on April 12 full time. The teachers must teach regardless.

Sincerely,

Melissa Comstock

---

Dear Superintendent Pritchard, WJUSD Board of Trustees, WJUSD Administration,

We write to you today asking you to reconsider the Phase 3 Elementary School schedules and expectations that are due to begin on April 12th. We believe we speak for most teachers when we say that we are ecstatic to finally see our students again in real life. We want to finish out the year strong and give them the best quality of education we can in the few short months we have left, but based on the current Phase 3 Elementary guidelines we have serious concerns that we will be able to do so.

When you look at the number of instructional minutes to be provided to students in a day in Phase 3 it seems reasonable and appropriate. Students will receive 3 hours of live instruction (in person, or synchronously online) and 90 minutes of asynchronous work. We have no issue with this. However, from the teacher's perspective the number of instructional minutes we are expected to provide daily are unrealistic and unsustainable.

In order to provide an equal education to our entire class we will be teaching for 3 hours in the morning, followed by a 30 minute lunch, after which we will be teaching for another 3 hours in the afternoon. Our entire work day is going to be taken up with live student interaction, leaving literally no time in our day to plan, prepare, grade, communicate, or do the dozens of other tasks teachers need to do to keep a classroom running smoothly.

Based on the current instructional minute guidelines shared by the district, here is what our day will look like: Each morning we will arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of school to greet students, guide them to their classrooms, and screen them to make sure they are feeling healthy. Students will receive a 15 minute recess which teachers will be partially responsible for supervising, as we simply do not have enough non-teaching staff to perform this duty. Fifteen minutes before our morning ends we will prepare students for pick up and supervise as families come to get them. If we are lucky we will also be able to reset our classrooms, putting into place the necessary technology for the afternoon virtual group during this time with the hopes that we can grab a quick bite to eat during what should be a 30 minute duty free lunch. After lunch, we have another 3 hours of instruction online. The only truly protected prep time we have will be for 2 hours on Wednesday afternoons, which is simply not enough time to do



our jobs.

Our previous MOU, before the pandemic, included 125 minutes of prep time for elementary teachers per week. Our phase 3 schedule may look like it provides prep time on Wednesdays for a two hour block; however, here are some notes on comparing our phase 3 prep time to other phases of instruction this year:

~During phase 2, we were given 30 minutes of prep time every day during the lunch block.

~During phase 1 and phase 2, the district gave us from 2:00-3:00 as non-student time.

~During phase 2, we had from 12:30-2:00 on Wednesday dedicated as grade level collaboration time. (We will now have to choose between personal prep time and grade level collaboration time.)

Our current phase 2 schedule gives us 240 minutes a week of non student time in the afternoon, 150 minutes of prep time during lunch, and 90 minutes of collaboration time each week. This is a total of 480 minutes of time during our contract days to prepare to do our jobs well. While I acknowledge this has been a generous amount of time, most of us still work outside of our contract day to prepare engaging online lessons, think creatively, contact parents, check asynchronous work, and update attendance based on work completion.

The Phase 3 schedule will give us a maximum of only 135 minutes of prep time per week. This is 345 more minutes live with students each week. Is this not an increase to our workload? When will we prepare quality lessons for our students? When will we gather materials and supplies? When will we create the asynchronous work that students need to do when they are not with us? When will we communicate with families and our administration? When will we grade and review student work so that we can adjust our instruction to fit the needs of our students? Please ask yourself the question: Will teaching in-person and online to three different groups, A, B, and C, be more work for teachers than before the pandemic? If you agree that teaching all three groups is more work, then we should be given the prep time needed. Before the pandemic we had 5 hours of instruction with students each day, and the phase 3 schedule will require 6 hours of instruction. Per MOU 2.12- "The district shall make every effort to avoid increases to unit member workload." We would argue that 4 additional hours of instruction each week is an increase to our workload.

Teachers are already working into the evenings and on weekends to complete all of the tasks needed to make distance learning work. What is being asked of us in this new schedule is simply not possible. We have nothing left to give. Please consider reducing the number of live instructional minutes required each day so that we can show up each morning prepared and ready to engage our classes.

Thank you for your consideration,

Teachers of Plainfield Elementary School

Clara Skaug

4th Grade Teacher

Frank Ramirez

2nd Grade Teacher

Marianne Ferrendelli

5th Grade Teacher

Barbara Chase

Kindergarten Teacher

Quincy Newsom  
2nd Grade Teacher  
Ruth deLemos  
5th/6th Grade Teacher  
Christy Johnson  
6th Grade Teacher

---

To WJUSD Board of Trustees;

My name is Marisa Lefevre and I am a 2nd grade dual immersion teacher at Dingle Elementary. Over the last year the COVID 19 virus has presented us with unprecedented challenges. As a single mother confronting the school closures last year, my responsibilities included not only adjusting my classroom to the unique rigors of distance learning but also making difficult decisions about what to do regarding my own son's education. For the past year I have been able to adapt and even excel at distance learning while continuing to keep up with my own son's education. This has only been possible due to my ability to work from home during this time.

With school's re-opening up around the state, I am now faced with a new set of challenges and decisions to make regarding my ability to teach my students as well as my responsibility to my son. I know I am not alone amongst the teaching staff of this district in this regard. The agreements negotiated between then district and union over this past month have put teachers like myself--who have dedicated years of our lives in service of education--in an impossible bind.

Fortunately, I have accrued a number of sick days which I believe I should be able to use in this unprecedented moment. I believe parents such as myself should be allowed to use these accrued sick days to attend to the needs of our families as we make the difficult adjustment back to some semblance of normalcy.

Section 5.3 of the newly negotiated contract reads: "in the event a bargaining unit member is unable to return to in-person instruction as a result of the interactive/ADA process or due to child care needs, and a DL assignment is unavailable to them, the unit member may use their accrued leave and any other applicable leave provisions in the CBA that will maintain their paid status before taking unpaid leave."

As stated above, I have been successfully homeschooling my child through the San Juan Unified School District where I live. Even if I were to send him back to school, he would only be going for three hours, two days a week. This is simply incompatible with my new schedule here at work, where I would be away from home for no less than nine hours a day, including my commute. I believe that this should be considered a significant enough childcare need to qualify me to be able to use *all* of my accrued paid time off before forcing me to take an unpaid leave of absence. Allowing educators with families, like myself, to use our *earned* paid time off (including personal and sick days) will allow us to attend to the needs of our children and give the district time to prepare substitutes in advance to teach our students for the remaining 45 days of school.

If the district had agreed to allow parent/teachers like myself to bring our children to school, this would not be an issue. If the district had agreed to let us continue to work for home, this would not be an issue. Now I am urging the district Board of Trustees to allow educators to use

the totality of our paid time off so we can absorb the shock we have been forced to endure in these unprecedented times.

I ask you to consider the intent of section 5.3 of the March 12 MOU. Was it to block employees from accessing our leave in this rare pandemic case or to grant it to us? Since the decision was made last month to re-open schools, I have been working tirelessly to find a solution that will maximize the benefit to both my class and my family. I have been in extensive contact with human resources to try and use my sick leave and allow my principal to have enough time to find a substitute for the rest of the year.

On Feb 26, I emailed "MyHRTeam" and was subsequently bounced between four different representatives before having my request to use my sick days denied. Does this not directly contradict what is stated in Section 5.3 of the MOU?

Personally, I am being told that although I have 50 days of accrued leave, I am not allowed to use them for the 45 school days from April 12 to June 11. The reason given to me is that only 14 of these days are classified as 'personal necessity', 'no tell' and 'family care.' My remaining 36 days are classified as "annual sick leave" and that I cannot use them. This will force me to take unpaid leave after only 14 days, meaning I will have to pay for the substitute differential and health insurance out of pocket. This is the situation that other WJUSD teachers will be forced into if we are not given the option to use our paid time off which--I remind you--we have earned fairly.

If your intent was to block teachers from using accrued leave, then why include it at all? Even a teacher with hundreds of days of accrued leave would only be able to use the 14 of those days which are classified as 'personal necessity,' 'no tell,' and 'family care.' We would have access to them by definition anyway, correct? Why bother making the above agreement at the 3/12 meeting? Why wasn't it clearly stated that under no circumstance may teachers use their accrued sick leave? Because, instead, when I requested to use all my leave, I was redirected 5 times to 4 different people over the course of the past month and none of them could give a definitive answer.

Furthermore, since the time that this agreement was struck, the Governor has now passed SB95, giving all employees 80 hours (I'm assuming 10 days for teachers) paid leave before using our own leave. I know you could not foresee this, but if teachers now take this leave before our own, do we still have to pay for our own health insurance and substitute teacher differential? I am not creating these scenarios out of nowhere, this is based on actual 4 weeks of conversations with WJUSD HR staff. The time is drawing near for some of us to flat out leave our children home alone or start that paid/unpaid leave time. Neither option is conducive to WJUSD students and teachers. And, ok, so maybe no one cares about the teachers. So, what about the WJUSD students? How will education look if classes have 2,3 or 4 substitute teachers each week in the 45 remaining days of the school year?

I hope my words find some purchase amongst the Board. We have all been through extraordinary circumstances this past year. With the end of this pandemic finally in sight all we are asking is for an opportunity to tend to our families and loved ones with the same attention that we have given our students in this last year of distance learning. There is no stronger institution than the American family, and allowing us to attend to our families is the best way to begin the process of healing that our great nation must now undergo. I believe my situation and the situations of many of my fellow educators falls cleanly within the boundaries of the MOU

agreed upon by the District and Union on March 12th and I hope the board finds the courage and compassion to adhere to the spirit of the agreement that the district agreed to.

---

Hello,

My name is Shea Lillard and I have a 1st grader. Before she entered kindergarten, we made the big decision to buy a home that would make Plainfield our home school. We loved the teachers, families, and small school feel. Sadly, our daughter wasn't able to finish out her kindergarten year, in the classroom.

Now, almost a year later, most children in our district are still at home distance learning. We absolutely loved Plainfield, our Principal, and teachers. My daughter's teacher was amazing and did everything she could to provide a "classroom" experience for the students. I heard her go above and beyond, day after day. I can't imagine being a teacher right now in these uncharted waters. As the days went by, as I waited patiently (or tried to) for changes, my daughter was falling further and further behind. She was not cut out for online/distance learning. She was having a hard time focusing and retaining, she cried every single day, and she was saying, "I hate school!" She has always been shy and slow to warm up to change, but by mid Kindergarten, she was blossoming and full of interest and confidence. Now her confidence is rapidly decreasing and my heart is breaking.

In February I made the huge decision to pull her out of Plainfield and the Woodland Joint Unified School District. We applied to Woodland Christian School a few months ago. There is a waitlist right now for this year and next. I filed a Private School Affidavit and purchased homeschool curriculum. I will spend the next few months building her back up and preparing her for 2nd grade.

I can't wait any longer. I have no more patience. My daughter is suffering. I wish I would have stepped in sooner. I look at my happy, loving family, with one parent working and the other at home (by choice), roof over our heads, food in the fridge, and bills paid. What privilege we have to even have these basic necessities. What privilege we have to step in and make change where we see fit. I fear for those children who are being left behind. Families who can't make ends meet, and kids who are left at home to fend for themselves.

Please open the schools fully. The Hybrid Schedule is not adequate. The families and kids are depending on you to represent and fight for them.

Sincerely,

Shea Lillard

---

Hi all,

I am the mother of a first grader within WJUSD. I was so excited to hear that we will be returning in-person for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year. My excitement immediately turned into frustration and stress once I found that this was a bare minimum hybrid model that we would return to. As a household with two full-time working essential parents, this current plan is less than ideal. In our household we have a 6 year old who has been doing distance learning and if finally getting the hang of it but, we also have a healthy 3 year old that has been attending an in-person private pre-school that has had zero positive cases of covid-19.

I am disheartened that the best that WJUSD can come with is 2 half days for our kids. Our kids should not be punished for something that is not within our control. Our kids deserve more and need more. 5 days in-person half days should be what we move forward with doing. Science has proven that it is safe for them to return so why are they not being given more time?

I understand that there is a lot of planning and what-ifs that go into setting a plan in place. But, phase 3 needs work. Work that I am urging you to strongly reconsider. It is your responsibility to advocate for our children. Stand up for our innocent children and do better. Our children and our community deserve it.

Thank you for your time and your consideration. I trust that at the end of the day you as a Board and a Superintendent know what is right and wrong. Please do the right thing.

Kindest regards,  
Sara Echarte

---

Dear Woodland Joint Unified,

My name is Laura Santana, and I am currently teaching in a Dual Immersion Kindergarten position. I am also parent of two young students, a third grader and a second grader who attend my school. Since I transferred to WJUSD 6 years ago, I have felt so fortunate to be able to work in the community that I live in and be able to have my children attend the school that I teach in.

This last year has presented many challenges and personal struggles that forced me to take a leave at the start of the year and be away from my students. The last thing I want to do now is be forced to take another leave and not be able to finish out the year with my Kindergarteners due to childcare issues.

I respectfully ask the board and WJUSD to allow work place flexibility for students of teachers by giving options for parent-teachers to work remotely during virtual instruction and by allowing their children to remain in the classroom with them so teachers can fulfill both responsibilities of being a parent and a teacher.

Fortunately, I have been able to build a good rapport with my students. I have had the opportunity to know them and their parents well and I have seen wonderful growth since I have been with them full time once again. I don't know what it will be like for them if someone new needs to take over again because I can't work due to childcare needs. The decision to do what is best for all students in our district is in your hands. I hope that the board and WJUSD reconsiders work place flexibility so that parent-teachers can continue to do the work we chose and love to do.

Thank you for your time,  
Laura Santana  
Kindergarten Dual Immersion

---

Good Afternoon,

I have written many times before laying out all of the reasons why we should fight to have our kids in school full time. Each time, we are given a revolving door of excuses. For so long it was 6 feet social distance, which is now not the standard by any policy setting group. I implore you to find reasons TO go back rather than reasons why we can't. The simple truth is that you CAN go back 5 days a week, you just simply choose not to.

---

I'd also like to state for the record that I voted for Trustee Rodriguez and deeply regret that decision. He does not appear to be the voice for the overwhelming majority (at least in the last survey) of parents who elected him that desire to bring back their kids to full time in person school. Instead he appears to speak for the small and fear driven minority.  
A frustrated parent of three WJUSD students

---

Dear Board of Trustees:

The solution to childcare concerns and workplace flexibility should be left to the administrators at the site level. Staff members at the secondary level are forced to choose between their students and their families by being forced to work from campus in the afternoons when there are no in person student activities happening. Coordinated student support and office hours are still being held virtually, and there is no reason why those virtual meetings need to be hosted from the classroom. Allowing workplace flexibility in the afternoon would allow for teachers to continue to do their jobs to the highest standards that you have come to expect from WJUSD teachers over the course of the past year of fully remote teaching. The consequence of not allowing for workplace flexibility and not allowing administrators to address child care concerns with their staff at the site level is a direct negative impact on our students. Teachers will be forced to take leave, which will leave students with substitute teachers. The quality of their education will be directly impacted.

Has the district office gathered any data on how many subs will be needed as a result of this decision? If not, why haven't they? Can you, today, clearly articulate your reasoning for not allowing afternoon workplace flexibility? We can see no obvious reason aside from a lack of trust in teachers and a desire to micromanage. You have trusted us to work with our students from home for an entire year. Please continue to trust us to conduct our virtual office hours and student support contacts from a location that allows us to also care for our families. We know that you value the needs of the WJUSD community. You listen to the parents, and you want to do right by their students. Please keep in mind that so many of the teachers of WJUSD are also parents of WJUSD students. They don't want to choose between the kids on their rosters and their own children. They should be given workplace flexibility to meet the needs of both.

Thank you,  
Ashleigh Cowan  
Jade Owen  
Angelica Farias  
Liz Christopher  
Jenni Pareas  
Heather Lanier  
Izzy Zallo  
MariaLuisa Lares

---

My name is Kirsten and I am a parent of 3 at Tafoya Elementary and I am writing to demand the safe re-opening of schools for full time in person instruction NOW!

School is essential: remote school leads to learning loss and serious mental health consequences for kids. This hybrid schedule put together will be harder on these kids than full time distance learning!

School is safe: The CDC continues to make this clear, and we know from the many open schools in the US and here in California, when precautions are taken, school is not a driver of community virus spread.

Teachers could have returned before they were vaccinated, if we fought to have our teachers moved to the front of the line. For what?! For 2 days a week of 1/2 day in person learning? Not good enough! Thousands have been teaching across the US and right here in California since **September**.

California continues to be the outlier. The majority of school districts around the country and the world have figured out how to open safely. We have one of the smallest percentages of students attending in-person of any state in the US.

Parents are tremendously upset, and refuse to let this continue.

---

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees:

Elementary teachers are getting slammed with the Phase 3 schedule. Please reconsider the upcoming instructional minute requirement. The minutes are unreasonable for students and teachers and add time and challenges to teacher and student workloads.

Beginning on April 12, elementary teachers will begin checking students into their classrooms at 8:15, begin the instructional day at 8:30 and teach until 11:30. The 15 minute recess break includes student supervision on at least two of those days, at least at our site.. At 11:30, teachers supervise student pick up. After a 30 minute lunch break, teacher-led synchronous instruction begins from 12:15 until 3:15. An example of the [Phase 3 Schedule](#) attached.

To be clear, in-person, morning instruction requires an entirely different set of educational tools, strategies, and materials to effectively engage and teach returning students. The expectation is that the same lessons delivered in the morning will be repeated to students receiving synchronous instruction in the afternoon. The two toolboxes are completely different. It takes every possible strategy to keep students engaged while online, requiring lessons that are planned, prepared, and recorded, as well as systems to check students' work and provide feedback. There is no time in the day for a teacher to adequately prepare for both. Creating online lessons for our virtual phase 1 and 2 have been and continue to be time consuming. This planning and preparation will need to continue for the virtual learners while we are creating lessons and activities for our in-person learners. Additionally, we have to consider the asynchronous instruction: what is it, how do we monitor it, how do we check in and communicate with those students?

I ask you also to please consider the mindset of elementary students who will be receiving their instruction in the afternoon. Elementary students are weary of virtual instruction, and getting them to tune in can be such a challenge. Three hours of virtual instruction in the afternoon is too much.

What is being asked of elementary teachers with the Phase 3 schedule adds significantly to every elementary teacher and student's workload. I ask that you look at reducing the number of instructional minutes daily to ensure teachers have adequate time to prepare for both groups of students and to ensure that our instruction does not get watered down because

elementary teachers simply cannot do more. We need to end this challenging year with positive, meaningful instruction. Examining the instructional schedules of surrounding districts can provide perspective on how excessive WJUSD's requirements are.

Sincerely,

Marianne Ferrendelli

5th Grade Teacher, Plainfield Elementary

---

Really, your classified staff have to have two and three jobs, but we can spend this kind of money on a motivational speaker and his program. Is there evidence that this program is working or are you taking somebody's word for it that it is working? Hiring a couple of on site counselors to work with our students, that know are students, and our community might be more beneficial.

Educational Trinity Program to provide social-emotional support and tools to students, teachers, staff, and parents. Funding Source: Title I Spent with vendor in 19/20: -0- Attachment: page 6 - 25 \$103,500.00.

Irene Difuntorum

---

Dear Board Members

I am going to be succinct.

To help elementary teachers have more NEEDED prep time, I suggest cutting 30 minutes from the morning schedule and 30 minutes from the afternoon schedule. This gives us a 30 minute lunch and 60 minutes of prep each day. LESS time on-screen for our students- not MORE. MORE time to be a well prepared teacher for 2 groups each day- not LESS. Win/win. We are not asking for the moon. We are asking for help and respect.

Thank you.

Reinette Carlson

First Grade Teacher

Freeman Elementary

---

Dear Board of trustees,

This comment is on item J3. I am writing to ask you to support teachers' ability to do our jobs well. We also want to prevent staff leaves that would cause students not to be able to stay with their teachers. The sample elementary hybrid schedule that was attached to the Phase 3 MOU is being interpreted by site principals in a rigid way that will cause unworkable conditions for our members. Please implement a reasonable hybrid elementary schedules with daily prep time of 30 minutes, by reducing the afternoon virtual instruction time. This would more accurately match the non instruction transition time of the morning group which will have handwashing and post recess entry. Please allow children of staff to remain in their classroom with a signed waiver. Please allow workplace flexibility during afternoon virtual instruction.

Thank you,

Jim Bard

Beamer P.E.

---