

# Comments

July 9, 2020 Special Board Meeting

# Item 3.0 Bill Lemei

Subject: Covid Considerations

Comment: July, 8, 2020 To the CUSD Governing Board. It seems our species never fully shakes off the sense of invulnerability of our teenage years. I am strong. I will be fine smoking, working with asbestos or in a coal mine. I am attaching links to two websites. One discusses Covid lung scarring in otherwise asymptomatic patients. The other considers possible long-term effects on “recovered” Covid patients. I would like to see as many people as possible survive this first set of Covid waves. I worry about the residual health effects of infection from this virus, including on young people. Those effects can’t be known now. I do not want to be arrogant and minimize Covid as a “bad flu.” My pediatric physician daughter and mother of two young boys framed it this way, “I don’t want to watch any child suffering at the age of fifty from an exposure that could have been prevented now. I want to be the hypervigilant parent now. And for all of us I hope that hypervigilance turns out to have been unnecessary. The truth is, we just do not yet know what we are dealing with. Humility, not arrogance, is the appropriate attitude. Extreme caution is the only prudent course. These are our children.” Asymptomatic lung scarring:  
<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/06/23/864536258/we-still-dont-fully-understand-the-label-asymptomatic> Long-term consequences: <https://www.advisory.com/daily-briefing/2020/06/02/covid-health-effects> Respectfully, Bill Lemei, CHS physics and math teacher and Coronado resident.

# Item 3.0 Lauren Stephens

Subject: Prioritizing the safety of the children, teachers and staff by reopening

Comment: Priority #1 is the health of students & teachers - having students in school full-time is the safest option for everyone. San Diego has 452 cases in children under 9 (2.7% of all cases) per the County on 7/6/20 and no deaths. If there is any in-person learning, there will be some level of exposure between teachers & students - therefore, the best way to reduce risk is to minimize the students' exposure to those outside of home and school. If schools adopt A/B or alternate off-days, parents will seek other childcare, increasing the network of exposure to non-household members and putting teachers at a greater risk than were the student in class full time, where the district can best control the setting. Coronado is a city of high income, most residents are able to hire outside help, and parents are getting more desperate for childcare to maintain employment. Distance Learning was difficult - placing undue stress on students, teachers, & parents, requiring extra hours, and failed to hold the interest of younger students who thrive in a classroom. Nationwide, schools are reopening and the AAP just published a study stating "...evidence and collective experience argue that children...are far less important drivers of SARSCoV-2 transmission than adults. Therefore, serious consideration should be paid towards strategies that allow schools to remain open, even during periods of COVID-19 spread. In doing so, we could minimize the potentially profound adverse social, developmental, and health costs that our children will continue to suffer until an effective treatment or vaccine can be developed and distributed" I ask that we reopen the schools on a full-time basis, with proper protocols (handwashing, limit parents on campus, cleaning, teacher health checks) to put the safety of our children and teachers at the forefront while balancing social & emotional needs of our kids. Thank you for all you have done in this difficult, challenging time.

**Item 3.0** - Allyson Silva, Jennifer Zavislak, Kelli Craig, Devon Roberts, Rachel Bevilacqua, Wendy Moore, Chris Teachout, Lindsey Cummins, Libby Patrick, Jen Vernallis, Art Sawi, Toni Trinidad and Cyndi Furhman

Dear Board Members and Superintendent Mueller,

We are writing to you to address staff safety concerns regarding the return to in person instruction in the fall. While we all long to be in person with our students and return to a sense of normalcy, our nation, state and town are currently experiencing record spikes in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

We want you, as our trusted leaders, to know that we long to be back at school in person with our precious students and colleagues. We crave interaction and socialization in the most essential ways. Yet, putting each other in the gravest danger to do so doesn't seem right, healthy, humane or smart. How we return to school may seem like an impossible decision and currently there is no correct way to do things. However, what we do know is what we value the MOST is the safety of each and every staff member, student and family who is a part of CUSD. We ask that the plan for the 2020-2021 school year be one that strictly adheres to the lower student numbers, proper PPE, and minimum of 6' of physical distancing for staff and students as put forth by the State and County.

Schools across our nation were closed in March and STILL, county and national levels of COVID-19 have continued to skyrocket. IMAGINE putting all children, staff, administrators and classified employees back in the classroom, at a great risk of spreading a disease not yet contained. The numbers will continue to surge and we will be even worse off than when we started self quarantine. It is unimaginable to think that because parents need “someplace” for their children to go while they work, they have chosen schools and teachers to be their holding place. The reason for opening schools at full capacity should not be a matter of convenience. Our schools (before COVID-19) did not have proper ventilation or sanitization. We are not confident that given the demands of COVID-19, that sanitation protocols for cleaning will be done consistently or properly on our campus.

The infection numbers for children ages 0-19 are surging and by exposing one another, including staff, children will then be carriers to their own families and community members. WE will have been the cause of an immediate spike and we don't believe any of us are willing to bear that burden. Specifically, in San Diego County there has been an additional 854 cases in the 0-19 age group since June 19th. On June 19th there were 741 cases and as of July 5th there were 1,595 cases. That is a 115% increase in cases in just two and a half weeks. Yes, very few children actually die from COVID-19 BUT many young people still get very sick: intubated, put on ECMO, pediatric multisystem inflammatory disease and Kawasaki-like illness with coronary artery aneurisms. These are serious issues with long term effects. Just because this virus doesn't kill children at a high rate doesn't mean it doesn't cause serious harm to children.

On July 7th, all INDOOR activities in San Diego will close for AT LEAST three weeks. School is indoors! You CANNOT tell us that four weeks later teachers and children will be expected to be indoors, in close proximity for hours each day. Although it is not ideal, we CAN teach a smaller number of students in the classroom. We know this option is more challenging but it is possible. However, the alternative of a full return might lead to a distance learning model due to sickness, hospitalization, teacher leaves, substitutes, self-quarantine, and in the worst cases death. How would we all feel if we knew we could have prevented even one fatality? Or even yet, caused one? Can we live with ourselves knowing that opening schools caused the death of a student, staff member or family member who contracted it? Are you ok with following the bare minimum safety protocols and hoping for the best?

If guidelines will not be followed and strictly enforced, we ask that full distance learning be implemented for the foreseeable future for the health and safety of all. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Allyson Silva, Jennifer Zavislak, Kelli Craig, Devon Roberts, Rachel Bevilacqua, Wendy Moore, Chris Teachout, Lindsey Cummins, Libby Patrick, Jen Vernallis, Art Sawi, Toni Trinidad and Cyndi Furhman

## Item 3.0 – Lara Savic

Subject: Covid plans

Comment: Hello, I have a rising TK and 1st grader. I would like to know what that plan is in case of the inevitable- that someone on campus tests positive for Covid-19. Would all those exposed be quarantined for 14 days? And presumably their families should also quarantine?

## Item 3.0 – Theresa Murray

Subject: Reopening

Comment: Regarding face coverings, your plan states that they will be "mandatory in classroom and during student transitions." This was disappointing as we have an upcoming Kindergartener and are not comfortable with her wearing a face covering at school for a lengthy duration of time. The AAP addresses face coverings in younger children and the developmental appropriateness, as well as feasibility, stating this may not be able to be instituted safely. This will be challenging for them with potentially missing social cues, impeding the education process, challenges with communication, consistently touching their mask, etc. While I understand taking into consideration guidelines from the CDC and Dr. Wilma Wooten, the AAP is most experienced and reliable regarding the pediatric group and should be at the forefront in making decision related to reopening of schools. 1. Will face coverings be mandated at Village elementary? 2. Is the plan to implement a hybrid model in elementary? Thank you all in advance for your hard work and dedication to the children.

## Item 3.0 – Sara Berta

Subject: Please do not gamble with our children or your staff's health

Comment: While I am well aware of the fact that most of us have been quarantining since March, I will in no way send my kids to school at VES in August if it's not completely safe to do so. I know parents are overwhelmed, and I sympathize with all working parents who have no clue how to navigate distance learning or a hybrid program while working remotely or returning to an office. However, none of that takes priority over the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and community. We absolutely must act in ONLY the best interest of the health of our community. If there is anything this health crisis has taught us, it's that acting in haste and opening things too early doesn't do anything but put lives at risk and sets us back financially and economically. Please be part of the solution, and not the ongoing problem caused by our own selfishness.

## Item 3.0 – Harold Myers

Subject: Fall Re-opening

Comment: The board should consider that the number of coronavirus cases in Coronado is skyrocketing. As reported by the County of San Diego on 7/8/20, Coronado has recorded 68 positive test results for the Coronavirus since March 31, 2020. Over half of those cases have been reported in the past 2 weeks: June 23 - June 30: 16 cases for a total of 48: July 1 - July 7: 20 cases for a total of 68:

## Item 3.0 – Tamara O’Brien

Subject: COVID 19 Return to CHS Campus Plan

Comment: Hello CUSD Board and Mr. Mueller Covid 19 cases are rapidly rising here in Coronado per SD County Health Department statistics. Track the numbers from June 7th to July 7th-the number of confirmed cases is unsettling. Dentist and hair salons have many regulations from which we can learn. If we return to campus here are some of the current science based requirements to protect us all. 1.Facility: sanitation between classes, one way paths, toilet lids, Hepa air filters machines everywhere, hand washing stations, 70%+ hand sanitizer, meals packaged and taken off campus, no fan usage. 2. Employees: Follow dentist regulations-full PPE with N95 masks and face shields, plastic dividers in class rooms, micro phones, Hepa air filters in air conditioners and extra Hepa air filter devices in classrooms, UV devices for teachers to sanitize mask and teaching tools, teachers given option to remote teach. 3.Students: 1/3 of student on campus per day, proper type of mask required, temperatures taken and hand washing as enter campus and before entering each classroom, only on campus if in a classroom or passing period. Eat off campus. Students taught proper procedures. 4. Schedule logistics: block schedule 2 classes a day. An am class --long lunch break--pm class . Postpone non A-G courses, pay teachers 6/5 s who will teach a Saturday class, A last thought- delay starting school or remote teach 100% until Coronado stops the Covid 19 spread. Thank you Tamara O'Brien CHS History Teacher Coronado Resident

## Item 3.0 – Voice Message 1

Hello, I am a parent of two students at Coronado Village Elementary and my main concern for tomorrow's meeting July 9 2020 is that parents aren't teachers. I think kids should go back to school so they can learn correctly and adequately. Thank you.

## Item 3.0 – Voice Message 2

Hi, this is for item 4.1 on tonight's agenda, The Fall Reopening Plan. My name is Todd Madison. I am a founding member of San Diego Schools. We are an advocacy group to help parents make their voices heard in improving education in our county. Our goal is to improve transparency, accountability, and equity in the school districts throughout the county. We are living in difficult times. All school districts face serious challenges ahead. This summer there is nothing more important to parents than their district's plans for reopening in the fall. We see that is on your agenda. Parents need to have a voice in that plan. In your posted presentation on your fall reopening plan your survey indicates 89% of your parents prefer in person learning this fall. That's inline with what we have seen in many other districts. The board may want to know that many boards in our county have been voting in favor of a return to a traditional five-day school schedule this fall often unanimously or near close to it. For example Santee this week voted unanimously to return to five-day school and last night Carlsbad voted 4-1 in favor. We trust that Coronado will listen to its parents in making its decision. To help them make their voices heard the volunteers at San Diego Schools can help parents to better understand how their school district operates, get involved with their district in making things better and ultimately get the most value for their students' education. We also support parent to parent communication and discussion among all districts in San Diego county so as we have seen in the reopening plan one district can benefit what's learned by what has been done in others. We have established a website at [sandiegoschools.net](http://sandiegoschools.net) and a related Facebook group San Diego Schools, intended to act as a central hub for information giving parents and students the ability to find answers and resolve problems. Everyone, including board members, who represent those parents is encouraged to visit our site, [sandiegoschools.net](http://sandiegoschools.net), sign up for our email list, and join our Facebook group to stay in the loop on upcoming events and activities. Parents and kids deserve a voice in their child's educational opportunities. We look forward to working with parents in Coronado Unified toward that end. Putting kids first should be the first priority in education. Join us and make that happen. Thanks.