

May 26, 2020

State of California, Governor Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the teachers, staff, parents, guardians and students of Coronado Unified School District (CUSD), we, the Board of Trustees, write this letter to stress the importance of returning students to their campuses and classrooms at the earliest possible date within the CDC guidelines. Through dedicated professionalism and sheer persistence, our teachers have provided distance learning instruction to their students since imposed mandated statewide school closures. However, in surveying our stakeholders, we have learned that instruction provided solely through distance learning platforms cannot fulfill the academic standards and socio-emotional needs of our students. These observations are strongly supported by multiple studies. An education deferred is an opportunity forever lost for a child.

We acknowledge there is still risk from the spread of the Covid-19 virus and, consequently, there is continued need for social distancing and other mitigations. CUSD is preparing to welcome our students back in full compliance of public health directives. Our maintenance staff are sanitizing our facilities. Our administrators are working to determine classroom configurations and scheduling that will comply with CDC directives. Our teachers are receiving two weeks of dedicated professional development and collaboration time to plan for engaging experiences in distance, classroom, or blended learning settings. We are also fortunate to have strong support from local police and medical professionals to ensure compliance with public health official guidelines.

In summary, since the mandated closure of our facilities, we learned we cannot adequately provide instruction solely through distance learning using the latest technology. We base policy decisions on what is best for students, *always*. Consequently, we are advocating on behalf of our students for you to set conditions for schools which will enable us to provide for the complete academic and socio-emotional needs of our youth. We implore you to recognize the essential work of schools and appreciate your support in getting students safely back in classrooms where they can thrive.



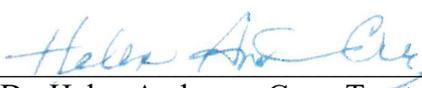
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Dr. Helen Anderson-Cruz, Trustee



Maria Simon, Trustee