

**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

January 5, 2021
MINUTES

Douglas E. Giles
Educational Resource Center
9619 Cuyamaca Street
Santee, California

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order and Welcome

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present:

Barbara Ryan, President
Elana Levens-Craig, Vice President (joined via zoom)
Dianne El-Hajj, Clerk
Ken Fox, Member
Dustin Burns, Member

Administration present:

Dr. Kristin Baranski, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board
Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Pupil Services
Dr. Stephanie Pierce, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Lisa Arreola, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

2. District Mission

President Ryan welcomed those in attendance and recited the District Mission.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Burns led members, staff, and audience, in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

President Ryan presented the agenda for approval. Member Fox moved approval.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Fox</u>	<i>Ryan</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Fox</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>Burns</u>	<i>Levens-Craig</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Vote:</i>	<u>5-0</u>	<i>El-Hajj</i>	<u>Aye</u>		

B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Baranski shared her update would be background knowledge for the discussion item presentation.

1.1. COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Baranski provided a case update since the last meeting. She shared there have been 148 cases reported (40 staff and 108 students) equating to 2% of the population. There are currently 22 cases on the District Dashboard, 8 staff and 14 students. She shared the majority of the cases have been caused through household transmission. Superintendent shared that before holiday break, there were two classes that were quarantined due to a student testing positive; and then a week later, two teachers tested positive. Superintendent Baranski shared that on December 22, in coordination with the County Public Health, the District was deemed to have an "outbreak." An "outbreak" is defined as having three (3) or more cases. She noted Santee's current case rate is 47.2%, and still below the County's rate of 65.9%. But, significantly higher than when the discussion was held on the integration of cohorts.

1.2. School Reopening Update

Superintendent Baranski proudly reported students returned to the hybrid model yesterday, with 90.5% attendance participation. She explained daily attendance is usually not monitored at the District-level, but shared four-percent (4%) of the nine-percent (9%) that did not attend, were COVID-19 related absences. She noted the other absences have not been determined but could be due to families not returning from vacation and/or concerned with the high case rates. Superintendent Baranski shared that in addition to the dashboard, the District is now required to maintain a "restricted from campus" list of students and staff who are unable to return to campus because of COVID-19 symptoms, deemed a close contact, or are quarantined for other reasons. She reported that on Friday, December 18 (before the winter break), there were 64 staff members absent due to COVID-19 related issues. Superintendent Baranski shared 20 staff were restricted yesterday, the first day back from winter break. She shared the number increased to 30, today; of which, five (5) were classroom teachers. The District is working hard on making sure there are enough certificated staff to cover the classrooms; and noted there are 18 long-term substitutes available daily. Superintendent Baranski noted Administration is closely monitoring the situation. She noted the recent addition of nine (9) additional newly credentialed substitutes. Superintendent Baranski explained some substitutes are covering classroom for teachers who are on maternity leave and/or for other COVID-19 related reasons. She shared it is the District's goal to have at least 27 substitutes available. Member Burns inquired for context purposes, what the number of absences would be pre-COVID. Superintendent Baranski noted it is usually 20-30 for various reasons. Member El-Hajj inquired of the 64 staff members absent, prior to break, how many were classroom teachers. Superintendent Baranski shared it was more than five, as Curriculum Resource Teachers (CRTs) and Directors were supporting classrooms. She shared being thankful that Mr. Christensen and Site Administration are keeping track of staff shortages.

Superintendent Baranski noted that at the last meeting, she shared the plexiglass had been installed but noted some of the public comments, from special day class parents, stressed their concern on the lack of the plexiglass in their student's classroom. She explained the plexiglass was installed in anticipation of the integration of cohorts, when there would be 25-30 students in the classroom. Superintendent Baranski noted that the enrollment in the special day classes remains low and allows students the ability to socially distance, and plexiglass is not required. However, it is available, upon the teacher's request. She noted not being aware that it was a concern from the parents, but it has been addressed.

Member El-Hajj noted a public comment referenced student absences and inquired how these are being marked, if they are COVID-19 related. Superintendent Baranski explained students have various options when the absence is COVID-19 related. She explained either a paper packet and/or independent study would be an option and suggested concerns could be easily addressed with school administration. Superintendent Baranski noted students will not be penalized for being absent due to COVID-19 related issues.

Superintendent Baranski reported the local routine testing site location is no longer available to staff. She shared working on other options so staff could continue this practice locally. Although there are other testing sites available, they are not as convenient for staff. Superintendent Baranski shared being proud of staff and reported over 400 tested during the month of December. Member El-Hajj inquired on the number of employees. Superintendent Baranski explained there are 850 employees, of which 250 are classroom teachers.

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

President Ryan explained that given the current circumstances with COVID-19, the public was given the opportunity so submit comments online or by phone prior to the meeting. There were 120 comments from the public. Copies of the comments were provided to the Board and Superintendent prior the meeting; and posted on the School Board Meetings website for public review.

Member Levens-Craig asked that the question regarding Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) leave be addressed. Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, explained the Act ended in December and that the District was working with labor associations to address the issue and “extend” the leave to discourage staff from going to work when ill.

ID	First Name and Last Name	Representing	Public Comment
1	Lynda Spendlove	Parent/student	The week prior to winter break I received 6 emails of covid cases at my child's school. With numbers continuing to climb and new more virulent strains being detected in san diego this trend will only continue until ultimately a school gets shut down. This seems reckless. Other local districts have closed or decided it was unsafe to reopen. While I admire Santee a desire to educate kids, two hours a day is hardly doing this and the risk no longer seems worth it. It seems the best idea would be to give teachers some time to prepare and start back online until vaccines are more widely available or offer another round of enrollment for parents interested in online learning to keep our families safe.
2	Stephanie Barker	Carlton Oaks School	Please do not move to full day, full attendance instruction on January 11. Covid cases are rising, the new, more contagious variant has been detected in California and we will have just come back from a two week break. Look at how the cases increased at our schools after Thanksgiving. It would be highly irresponsible to send all students back at one time, in January. Please do not gamble with the safety of our teachers, the school staff, our children and families. This is not the time to make a significant and dangerous change. I implore you to leave the hybrid schedule as it is until things have truly improved. Again, this is clearly not the time to make this change. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.
3	Amy Jamieson	My daughter, our amazing teacher and our community.	I have and continue to firmly believe postponing full day return is the prudent and only safe choice for our families and community. Sadly, as anticipated, cases have grown exponentially and we are in crisis mode as a county, state and nation. Please keep our families and children safe by continuing the social distance protocol we have been practicing since our return to school in last fall. Smaller classes are safer right now and better for our children and teachers, to control safe social distancing with properly spaced desks, diligent sanitation and monitoring.
4	Susan Starkey	My SDC	As I write this, my husband is slowly recovering after being diagnosed with Covid-19 on December 24th. I've been quarantining since December 8th due to someone else in my class testing positive-did I bring it home to him? We will never know. We will also not be the only ones to add to the positive cases in San Diego-and we were following ALL the protocols! So far I am negative, but I have symptoms, so... I hope that the board will take into consideration the idea that we all stay home and teach on-line until either herd immunity is realized OR teachers get fully immunized. My SDC made it almost three months (Sept 14-Dec 8) before an adult in my room got sick-who is still sick a month later, and will not be able to return to work yet-how long before myself and/or any other adults that work in my room all day test positive? It's simply not a safe environment at this point. We can teach safely and effectively from home-we did it for months. Please bear in mind that all of us-our children included-are surviving a pandemic! School simply cannot be conducted as usual at this point. Please let us teach from home, and help keep ALL of us safe. Thank you for your time.
5	Karen Smith	My child, his peers, his teachers, and our community.	I am writing to ask that the Santee School Board please postpone the combining of AM/PM Cohorts planned for Jan 11, 2021. I know we all want kids back in school, with a normal schedule. I want that too. However, we have already sacrificed so much and we are so

			close to being able to vaccinate teachers, school staff and vulnerable adults in our children's lives. We are so close to being able to see a decline in local Covid infection rates. That said, at the current time, San Diego County Covid infection rates are higher than they have EVER been. Combining cohorts and extending the school day increases the risk of transmission at school. Please hold out just a little bit longer. Our local situation could be so much better soon. I know we have all waited so long for kids to get back to school but letting our guard down now feels like quitting the race just before the finish line. I urge the School Board Members to please hold out just a little bit longer. Postponing the combination of AM/PM cohorts may save lives in our community. Thank you.
6	Aidy Vito Cruz	My son Reece Vito Cruz in Rio Seco SDC Teacher Ashlyn Wilson	Dear Santee School District Board, I am writing this comment in regards to the heathy and safety of my son. On two occasions my son's class had 2 positive cases of Covid19. With not much information about the safety of our children the question I asked my son if they have desk plexi-glass cover like Asher's class (general ed)? He said, "no glass". This is a big concern to me because health and safety is should be number 1 priority for all kids including the Special Day Class! This is upsetting and unfair that the class room safety measures doesn't include my son's Special Day Class. They should always been included. If nothing is going to be done soon. I'm going to bring this up to the news media and on social media about this matter. Warm Regards, SDC Parent
7	Anais Gedman	Ana	Can I switch my kids to distance learning? One child is in special day program and the other is in hybrid. Who do I contact?
8	Abby Deckert	a student in 8th grade, Cajon Park	I believe it's a better idea to continue with the hybrid model. Students have the option to go online yet we all understand that a majority of students suffer going online, thus why we went back to school. I rather not go back to online school and I think it's a really good idea to delay the time we go back with all students at once. When I'm in class there are good rules in place but like any rules people tend to relax and slack a little bit, for example not always social distancing and not withholding from touching each other. When we leave the classroom I'm often stuck in between people less than a foot away from them, and once we leave the school grounds and pass the gate almost all of the students pull their masks off and walk right by you. The teachers try their best to keep students in my class behaved yet often it's not always caught and the behavior continues. As of now the classroom feels crowded and I certainly would not feel safe in a classroom setting with the whole class inside the room despite the safety precautions.
9	Kaitlyn Farr	Student	I would like to request the school board to consider postponing the full reopening of our school and class sizes until we as a collective community feel it safer. As we have seen, most outbreaks are occurring within family gatherings. After seeing social media posts, quite frankly I am scared to see what the next few weeks will look like. On the heels of the holidays it doesn't seem best practice to rush this. The consequences are too high. Our hospitals are over capacity and ICU beds gone. The vaccine is now being rolled out to health care workers and first responders. Let our teachers be given the opportunity to receive a vaccine in this next wave before jamming their classroom full of kids. Let's do our part and protect the vulnerable in our community by allowing them the chance to get vaccinated before we up the risk of exposure. We can't do our part by sending our kids into a classroom where they are physically UNABLE to be 6 feet from one another. I know risk vs reward. I also know compromise. The later seems to be the most logical given the times we are in.
10	Jessica Unden	Oliver Unden	I would like to know why the special Ed classes, specifically Ms. Wilson, at Rio Seco elementary, is the only classroom without plexiglass? Why should our children be more exposed?!? WHO decided this?! I'm outraged!!
11	Sarah Lathers	Teachers	*Written and submitted Sunday, January 3, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. Numbers referenced at the end may have changed slightly at the time of reading this comment. In preparation for setting a full reopening date, which I believe should be postponed and not assigned until a more manageable time, I urge you to consider the following:

-In November, when you asked for community input when preparing for your last reopening date, you received 478 comments from the community and staff. Of those, only 115, or 24%, were in favor of a full reopening. And this, of course, was when our positive case numbers were vastly lower than they are currently.

-San Diego was the second city in the United States to have confirmation of the new, more contagious, including in children, variant of Coronavirus from the United Kingdom. I urge you to read the following article:
<https://news.yahoo.com/covid-wards-full-children-first-145710680.html>

-San Diego's daily positivity rating has averaged 18% over the past 7 days.

-Santee, alone, averaged 49 new daily positive cases over the past 7 days.

Please, wait to bring back all of our students into full rooms. I want to be with my kids. If you insist upon cramming all of these children together at one time, I fear it will cause such widespread outbreak within our district, and community, that you will force us all back into distance learning.

12	Natalie franquez	Plexiglass in the special ed class rooms	Plexiglass in the special ed classroom
13	Aida C. Sumang	Reece Vito Cruz representing special Education	The special education classes needs to be protected. I'm very concern that this kids needs a full protection from the virus. They need everything to protect them on their face to face classes.
14	Nick Farr	My Child	I think that it is reckless to open the schools to 24 plus kids in a classroom given our current pandemic crisis. I don't think it's advisable to open a school under conditions when there isn't enough hospital beds in the ICU should a family member become ill. Please keep our children and families health in the forefront. Lives are irreplaceable, time lost in a classroom can be made up.
15	Nicole Cavanaugh	Concerned Parent	Please delay returning full time. This is NOT the right time. We saw what halloween and Thanksgiving brought. Christmas and New Years has shown us that people stopped doing the right thing months ago and this is not the time. This is a nightmare. Kids eating WITHOUT masks is not safe right now. There is no way to do this safely outside or inside like you have planned. This is a recipe for disaster. Hybrid is working. Working well. Please don't try to be the first or the best right now. Just be safe and do the right thing. Some of us are doing what we are supposed to at home and trusting the school to be as safe as possible, Full time takes all of that way. If it was just adding more kids with masks that would be one thing, but removing masks and then breathing the same air as 25+ other kids and households is the worst thing that you could do. You said hand washing, distancing and masks are the safest thing to do - plexiglass doesn't solve that. Please keep it how it is. Please stop trying so hard for a full time return date and focus on how we can make the current program better and help the kids who might need it. Please don't send them back.
16	Elizabeth Tosspon	Concerned Santee parents	Santee School District has done a wonderful job this year keeping our students and staff safe. I am in favor of remaining with the current hybrid schedule until such time as cases in the local area show a significant decrease, and/or teachers and staff are given the opportunity to receive a Covid-19 vaccine. Moving to a full-day schedule at this point in time would mean double the exposure for our students, and double the chances that full classes (and possibly entire schools) would need to be placed on quarantine, forcing students into a full-time distance learning schedule for weeks at a time. As long as the virus is widespread enough in our area to mean 0% ICU capacity and the state imposing its stricter stay-at-home order, it is safest for our teachers and makes the most sense for students to remain on the hybrid schedule.
17	Jacy Stauffer	My children: Grayson (3rd grade) and Rhys Lindstrom (Kinder) of Carlton Hills Elementary	I strongly urge the school board to reconsider the full opening plan set for 1/11/21. Covid cases are worse than ever, especially in Southern California. We have had multiple cases at Carlton Hills already (one affected my younger son's cohort which forced his teacher and cohort to quarantine). If the board continues with the full reopening plan, I suspect cases will surge due to 20+ kids in one classroom at a time and the school will most likely have to shut down in-person learning completely. I'm a healthcare provider that is luckily already vaccinated, but we are far from getting the rest of the general public vaccinated. Please keep the existing cohort schedule as it seems to be effective and less risky. Thank you for

			<p>your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jacy Stauffer DMD Diplomate, American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Fellow, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Attending, San Ysidro Health, Children's Dental Center at Rady Children's Hospital</p>
18	Kristin Freitas	My kids at Carlton Hills	COVID numbers are higher than ever. I worry for the teachers if you pack the classrooms full. I think the teachers should receive vaccinations before filling the classrooms.
19	Roy Vito Cruz	Rio Seco Special Education Classes	<p>Dear Santee School Board,</p> <p>I'm concerned that in the Special Education classes, the children's desk are not equipped with the protective plexiglass like the General Ed. Classes. The expectation was that safety measures are being adapted into all classes only to learn that, it is not true. How can the school say that its safe to return but not all classes are treated equally? That's not fair that Special Day Classes were not included. Also with the rising numbers with Covid19 it is definitely not safe for the children to return to school full time. School is very important but health and safety is priority for all. Parents and teachers should be given the option to teach some classes online and in school. That option should be available for all families attending in school classes with their current teachers. While the numbers for Covid19 are increasing attending full time should be delayed until the number decrease, teachers vaccinated, safety measures adapted into all classrooms. Lastly, if a parent decides not to send their child to school because of concern with COVID19 the child missing school should not be counted as an absent. But instead the child should be given the option to do distant learning with their teacher.</p>
20	Betty Grable	Teachers	We are still not ready to go back to school full time. In fact the situation with Covid and our overwhelmed health care has just gotten worse. The push now should be for all staff working with students get the vaccine ASAP.
21	Jamie Burris	Jamie Burris	I'd like to go back to distance learning for at least two weeks to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 post-holidays.
23	Stacey Hippert	Parent of a Pepper Drive student	Please vote to reopen the schools full time. The kids desperately need to get back to socializing with their friends and teachers for more than 3 hours a day, and as two full time working parents, one of which is self employed, we too need this. My work has not closed a single day and I've had to bring my daughter to work with me everyday as Project Safe substantially increased their pricing. I'm very lucky to work for a family owned company that gave the OK to bring her or we would have been completely screwed, but I need to get back to being able to fully focus on my job as opposed to helping with distance learning when she's not in class.
24	Charlene Alsbaugh	Parent	Given the current COVID increases and the fact that we haven't witnessed the full impact of the holiday season, and the forthcoming state guidelines regarding K-2 and vulnerable populations it would make sense to pause the full-time return.
25	Tara Meade	Parent	In lieu of the current status of COVID in the state and county, full in-person instruction should not begin on January 11. Cases are at a record high, the surge from the holidays is imminent, and the variant strain which is more contagious has been reported in San Diego County. These indicators sound the alarm that now is not the time to increase capacity in any facility. Please consider postponing the full in-person return date, and remain with the hybrid model, until the county is no longer in the shelter in place order assigned by the governor and until San Diego County is no longer in the purple tier. Thank you for your time and consideration.
26	Teea Wyatt	My Children	I would ask that the board take all the numbers and information into consideration, and at this time the cohorts do not get put together and we Don't go to full time. Please stay with the AM-PM cohorts. This is working and our children are being well educated and are in less risk this way.
27	Taylor Deering	Dylan Deering	<p>When the School Board voted on November 19th, our county daily case count was 13,000. Yesterday the county case rate was 52,000.</p> <p>I don't feel like much else needs to be said, but erring on the side of caution, please do not force us to put our children in a more harmful situation than we currently are. Please</p>

			<p>extend the target date out to February and reassess again at that time. Our local hospitals are full and I do not want anyone in my household to catch covid and be denied a hospital bed and ventilator if the illness takes any of us down.</p> <p>I am hopeful the board will make the right and wise decision here. County case rates are the worst they have ever been and there are likely countless families who congregated just 4 days ago. We don't know how the Christmas and New Year's holidays will impact our case numbers and campus community positivity rate.</p> <p>Generally speaking, I would feel safe sending my child back full time with 26 children crammed into a classroom when this board is comfortable holding their meetings in person.</p>
28	Kari Cureton	Coral and Elliot Cureton	<p>We would love for our kids to go back full time not only for their mental health but also to get focused again on their education. I would suggest we start one week later than Jan 11 to give a couple of weeks time after the holidays for a mini quarantine. As long as the schools keep up with the masks, hand washing and other safety protocols we feel confident they will be good. I also hope the district has a plan to get all of the teachers vaccinated ASAP.</p>
29	Nicole Wallace	My 1st grade child	<p>As a healthcare employee seeing record hospital admissions for Covid 19 in the triple digits and as a parent of a child exposed as a close contact in her AM Cohort @ Cajon Park Elementary School, I respectfully ask that the decision to implement full in person learning be delayed. We are coming back from holidays where many families choose to gather even though we are in a strict stay at home order. Putting our teachers and children at risk is unacceptable at this time of the pandemic. Until numbers have steadily decreased, I do not feel that expanding the classroom sizes is a wise decision.</p>
30	Eric Dickson	Christa Dickson	<p>I feel that the school schedule should remain on the hybrid model for the near future, here are some reasons why.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. San Diego county continues to post record numbers of COVID infections, the latest report indicates that there were 3,520 new cases reported on Sunday (1/3) bringing the county's total to 168,020 cases and the death toll remaining at 1,592. I believe it's safe to say that the spread of COVID is out of control at this time and the hybrid schedule is the best way of mitigating the spread in schools.2. There is a new variant of COVID, B.1.1.7 that is circulating in the county as well. Four cases have been reported so far, however, officials believe that the new strain is widespread in the community. This variant is known to spread far more easily than previous COVID variants thus making community settings more vulnerable to outbreaks. Having schools on hybrid schedules limits the number of students on campus at any given time and, again, helps mitigate the spread.3. Hospital ICU's are at or over capacity, if one becomes seriously ill with COVID there are simply not enough resources to care for them. This is also to say nothing about needing ICU care for any other reason as well (car accidents or other serious injury). There are reports out of Los Angeles of ill people needing to wait in the back of ambulances for hours because emergency rooms simply do not have the beds available to admit them right away. All this to say that I believe a more conservative approach is necessary in schools to help ensure the virus does not spread to people who may require hospital and/or ICU care.4. Kids are contracting COVID and becoming seriously ill from it, although, not in the numbers that adults are. Kids can still get very sick and transmit the virus to others as well. I will not attempt to speculate on the age of teachers/faculty within the district but traditionally they are of an older age and especially at risk for serious illness due to COVID. <p>In closing, I feel that the hybrid model is the best way to get the kids back to a sort of normal educational environment while best mitigating the spread of COVID. I would also make two more recommendations to the district:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hybrid scheduling would probably be best through the end of the current school year. A COVID vaccine is here and being distributed as fast as possible, however, it will still take

several months before everyone is able to receive it. When it comes to the 2021-2022 school year, I think a full schedule will be possible from the start at that point in time.

2. I would recommend the district communicate that the hybrid schedule will continue but refrain from giving a specific date that full time school will resume. This will set the expectation that conditions rather than a time frame will govern when school gets back to full time. I feel that this will make your job a little easier and reduce stress on the district members to open full time school before it is appropriate.

Thank you for what you do to keep our kids and our community safe!

31	Joan McKeon	My 9 year old son.	Please vote to extend the current am/pm cohort model indefinitely. Until the vaccine is more readily available and the numbers improve, it is irresponsible to attempt a full time school schedule. I understand it is a hardship for some parents but we have managed to keep our schools open with the current model. If we push forward with full time, I don't think that will be the case. It will be much more inconvenient if the entire school or school district has to close. The safety of our kids and staff should be the priority and there can not be too much of an abundance of caution in my opinion. Thank you.
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32	Dennae Lovell	Teachers	I urge you to rethink the January 11th full return date. I don't think it is safe for students and staff to return at this point. I suggest waiting for wide-spread dissemination of the COVID-19 vaccine, particularly for teachers, and then reevaluating how numbers look. Considering the state of California is still in the purple tier I think we should continue our hybrid schedule.
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Some concerns I have about the return date is the COVID dashboard on the district website. I thank the district for having this for school staff, families and the community to see. My concern I have is the asterisk that states: *A student tested positive during an extended, in-home quarantine and was not deemed an infected person while on campus. The student's cohort was not alerted nor placed in quarantine due to the timing of these events. The problem is if a student is placed on the list with the asterisk and another student or staff tests positive the asterisk is there and it seems like a class was not impacted. This is not true. At PRIDE Academy coming back from Thanksgiving break we had a positive case with an asterisk. Then a class had a positive case and the cohort was closed and could not come back. Reading the dashboard it appears that no classes were impacted because then our number went up to *2. From the outside looking in, no one would know a class had to close. I think the dashboard needs to have a column that shows active cases that have impacted classrooms.

I would love to know two things

1. How many classes have had to close since we went back to school with a hybrid model?
2. How many classes had to close since we came back from Thanksgiving break?

Thank you for your time and consideration,
 Dennae Lovell

33	Suzie Siebern	Myself	Hi Board Members, I would like to see newly issued Covid funds used to cover an employee's first 10 days of quarantine/Covid illness. I worry that if I have to take time off to quarantine it would come out of my sick days. Please consider adding back those 10 days with newly released funds going to Education. Thanks! Suzie
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34	Renee Marin	My child	I feel confident that the teachers and staff have done everything possible to provide a safe learning environment for themselves and our children. I have a 1st grader, and we have struggled with distanced learning. This is the year he is supposed to learn to read, and he is already behind. I am a full time working parent and as of a couple weeks ago, can no longer work from home. I am now paying almost \$700 a month due to the hybrid schedule for my son to be in Project Safe...on campus. I understand that some people are nervous...but that is why we have the option continue to do the distanced learning from
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			home. I am not nervous and in my opinion, the pro's of him being back in school outweigh the cons. Thank you for taking the time to read this.
35	Deborah Gribble	Eveyone	I understand the coronavirus family leave expired at the end of the year; however, they are allowing for businesses to still take the tax credit through March. It would be in the best interest for all and prudent, to allow those employees who had/have time still available, to use it. Otherwise, instead of staying home, people will come to work. I really hope the district strongly considers the ramifications of not continuing with the available leave. Additionally, cases are too high, hospitals at 81%capacity, ICU's, and lack of health staff compound the problems of COVID. Please don't send everyone back full time. Lastly, with minimum wage going up again, the rest of us have been effectively devalued. Instructional assistants in particular, with the longevity a lot of us have, would make more money in all surrounding districts. Please consider a 2% for all just like the assistant superintendents. Thank you
36	Laura Riley	Self	Today was the first day my second grader wore a mask during class time and it was a major distraction for him. He told me he had to keep pulling it out to breathe and adjusted the nose bridge so that air could get in. His nose tickled the entire time and he was relieved when he could take it off for a snack. I understand this is the new state guideline and a small price to pay for continued in person classes. I feel for the children grades 3-8 as well as staff members who have been practicing mask wearing in class since reopening. With that said, 2.5 hours of class time is a much better pill to swallow than a full day mask wearing. While the CDC and Dr. Fauci have gone on record to say mask wearing causes no harm, global research has been conducted by doctors and scientists who have argued extended mask wearing can cause headaches, inhibit immunity and cause a reduction in blood oxygenation causing hypoxia and/or hypercapnia. For this reason alone, I don't think it is healthy for our children to be in class extra hours if they must wear masks while sitting at their desks. A good portion of the added hours to the school day appear to accommodate lunch time and breaks in which children are not allowed to play on equipment or with one another. I feel our children will remain safer and healthier with the existing schedule.
37	Meghann Kemery	My family	I am a parent of two Santee students, wife of a Santee teacher, and an educator myself. I write to you with much concern about the decision to go back to full-time in-person instruction on January 11th. COVID cases and deaths are much higher than they were when you first decided to postpone, and ICUs are essentially full. We also now have a more contagious variant of the virus in our community. It is dangerous for our entire community to push our schools into a situation where appropriate distancing measures cannot take place. I once again plead with you to reconsider going back to full-time in-person instruction until it makes sense. Health officials are estimating that teachers and the community will not be vaccinated until March or April. Please consider moving your goal date to after Spring Break. I do not want to watch my husband or children suffer or die from this virus. I do not want them to have to watch me suffer or die from this virus. Thank you.
38	Haley Cydell	Myself and other teachers	Being that we are still in a Covid spike, I do not feel it is a reasonable time for students to return to full time. Full classes of students behind plexiglass, wearing masks, unable to play on the playground for recess or PE, unable to work in groups, etc. is not a way in which I feel students should be learning. Hybrid is STILL working. Not only for those reasons, but for quarantine reasons, I feel that we should wait to return to full classes, full time. If one student has Covid, entire classrooms will shut down, hindering more student's learning. Again, Hybrid is working.
39	Crissy Sullivan	Cajon Park	I'm 100% for return to full in person classes for 6th grade. For each child's mental health and well being
40	Nikki Horne	I am representing myself and my child.	In light of current restrictions tightening everyday I fear it wouldn't take but a slight rise in numbers to shutdown classes and sites. All of the staff in our district has worked so hard to bring this little bit of in person normalcy to our children it would be such a shame to let that go to waste. In a way we need to separate ourselves a little bit from the intense emotion this topic brings on and think reasonably. Some in person learning is better than none at all for many families. There is no perfect scenario that will please everyone. I do realize the struggle that many of our families are facing, but having said that we as a community have pulled together to make this work. After Thanksgiving break the district I

work in saw a surge in typical illness and covid rates. My campus had 4 classes close the week before Winter break because of covid outbreaks. Thankfully our school as a whole didn't have to close. We are coming back from a long break where many traveled and may or may not have taken precautions. We don't know what each family chooses to do outside of school. While I'm not a fan of masks and business closures I do want the children who need to learn in person the best opportunity they can to do that without jeopardizing it. Larger numbers of kids mixed together is going to increase exposure rates and cause potential closures. Let's keep this little piece of normalcy for our kids and staff going and as a community we need to be more flexible and willing to help our neighbors. I personally would like to take the stress out of the unknown and leave this current A & B Groupings as is the remainder of the year. It is unlikely that the state and county are going to ease up mandates and restrictions anytime in the near future and this sadly is our new normal for the time being we need to deal with it the best wwe can and be more supportive to one another. Thank you to all of the certificated and classified staff for all you have done. Thank you for your time.

41	Jeff Miller	Self/Family/Higher Risk Family	<p>The threat facing our community is worse now than it was before... hope of things improving is closer, but it's not here yet.</p> <p>Regional, county and local spread has worsened since the previous planned schedule expansion. We are all tired and want to go back to normal, but where trends are not yet improving, the risk of bringing children closer together for longer is kind of like doubling the size of a network for viral spread in our community.</p> <p>Just like how a social or computer network grows close to the number of its members squared, so can the risks of viral infection be when we double the number of students in a room... if we "double" our precautions while increasing the risks by 2 (double), but find the risk gets squared, we have double precautions on 4x the risk; that's like having half the current level of precautions.</p> <p>The argument that we need schools to fully reopen is not an all-or-nothing situation. Right now students are not being deprived the social aspect of classroom interactions or an education; a partial reopening is likely better for most than keeping schools closed or entirely remote, but there seems to be little benefit (compared to the risk of more infections and unknown potential harm) to justify this dramatic increase in transmission risk before vaccines and good practices have turned the trends for the better.</p> <p>Instead of arbitrary full-schedule reopening plans, a more constructive community discussion might focus on criteria for safe and acceptable reopening; neither mid-November nor mid-January are (decided months in advance) more than arbitrary target dates without a context that means anything to our ability to work together as a community.</p> <p>I have earnestly asked, and would still like to understand- what is the benefit that is supposed to outweigh the elevated risk associated with any kind of arbitrary full-reopening plan?</p>
42	Diane Rudrude	Raygan Rudrude	<p>I'd like the School Board to please reconsider opening school up full-time on January 11th. There are just still so many uncertainties and the cases are only rising. I appreciate your time and consideration. Thank you!</p>
43	Andrei Taratusky	Two students and I am the parent.	<p>I would like to vote to continue hybrid school. The infection rates has increased dramatically and will continue to spread. We need to wait until the numbers go down.</p>
44	Emily Harpe	Our community - teachers, parents, students, and the healthcare sector that is stretched beyond their means.	<p>With the extreme rise in the spread of COVID19 and being the highest risk now - also factoring in the highest patient population in our hospitals at this time - I am concerned for our students and teachers more now than ever. I think it is in the best interested for the community (hospitals and those at risk) that we pause and bring students back to distant learning until the number begin to drop. I strongly am concerned that my children's learning has been impacted and am aware of the strain this causes the parents and those caring for the children while distant learning, but strongly feel that it is in the best interests of everyone - to reduce the spread and opportunity to spread - NOW more than ever before.</p>
45	Tina Conlee	Dylan Deering	<p>I attended virtually the Santee School Board Meeting in November where it was decided to continue the hybrid cohort model when school came back in session after Thanksgiving. I applauded that decision.</p> <p>Now that the next proposed date to reopen full time is approaching, and the Board meets again to vote whether to postpone that date again, I must write to implore this group to follow the science.</p>

			<p>The Southern California region, of which San Diego County is a part, continues to have 0.0% ICU capacity. We are witnessing unprecedented positive COVID-19 cases and will continue to see that number reflect the holiday congregations of the past two weeks. It would be exceedingly dangerous and foolish to open up in person, full time on January 11, 2021.</p> <p>There is no valid reason to not to continue the hybrid model until we see our region begin to reduce COVID infections and until our region has an ICU capacity > or = to 15%. With the more contagious variant already here in San Diego County, there is even more reason to continue the safer option.</p> <p>As a healthcare professional, I am hopeful that Santee School Board members will consider their responsibilities to keep our children safe during this pandemic.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted.</p>
46	Mindy Tarantino	I am a parent and employee and am against the full re-opening plan.	<p>I am a parent and employee of the district. With cases on the rise and being in cold and flu season, I do not believe it is in the best interest and safety of the students and staff to be back at full capacity. I know it is difficult for full time working parents, but I believe the hybrid model is the best at this time. It's allowing the kids to have the face to face time with teachers while keeping a safe distance from fellow students.</p>
47	Graham Cavanaugh	Parent	<p>This is not the time to send the kids back to school full time. This hybrid plan is going great. The number of cases are growing rapidly. The hospitals are a mess. We need to come together as a city and state and bring this back down before we could ever send these kids back to school full time. We can't do that to our kids and our teachers, please listen to them they aren't ready. If they don't feel safe with full time how should we feel safe sending our kids I know the state is giving other schools hope of going back in February but if this rate keeps up they will end the year distant. Our kids are lucky enough to have their teachers in person for a few very important hours a day. It needs to stay this way so they can keep this opportunity. Being back and forth on distant while their cohort is quarantined now is manageable but add more kids and less masks and it's going to be dangerous and exhausting.</p>
48	Anthony Rathswohl	Cajon Park parent	<p>It is counterintuitive to increase the level of risk in our schools while reducing the risk everywhere else.</p> <p>I request the district err on the side of caution and view the safety of the kids, staff and community as the paramount factor while determining our futures during this pandemic. I would like to formally state that a full school opening should be delayed.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
49	Craig Deane	Parent of a 3rd Grade Student at Rio Seco	<p>I don't think it's prudent to open the schools up to full-day learning at this time for 2 reasons.</p> <p>1) we need to slow the current spread of COVID in our community so we don't overwhelm our healthcare workers. Opening schools to full-day learning increases the possibility of disease spread. San Diego County and Santee are recording the highest amount of daily positive cases since the beginning of the pandemic which includes younger people. Although most infected children are asymptomatic or show mild symptoms, they still are able to spread the disease to their older family members. Older members are more likely to require hospitalization for treatment. Hospital/ICU bed and staff capacity are approaching 0% availability and healthcare workers are overwhelmed. Until the spread subsides and hospitals have more bed capacity I don't think schools should open to full-day learning.</p> <p>2) There have been a number of confirmed cases in SD County of the new strain of COVID. The new strain may be more contagious and have a greater impact on the body. Health officials have stated the new strain is likely spreading in our communities and contributing to the high number of daily COVID cases. At this time, I don't think the district should resume full-day learning until more is know about the new strain.</p>
50	James Sturch	Carlton Hills student.	<p>Too soon to move to full classes; my student has thrived and enjoyed her PM cohort and schedule. Wait until spring to bring all kids back together in the classroom!</p>
51	Elizabeth Groff	The Groff family	<p>For the health and wellbeing of the students, please do not open full day classes. COVID 19 is still going strong and you need to take this in consideration. Things are going well now. Having over 20 plus students in a classroom so close together is just wrong on health issues.</p>

52	Cary Ryan	Kids, teachers and families	<p>Please reconsider again the date you've set for full return. Things have not improved, they just seem to get worse and worse so why would we say it's a good time for 25 kids to be in a classroom together? My children did not spend Christmas with their cousins because my family decided it wasn't worth getting together if there's a possibility one of us has the virus and could spread it to one another. But I've seen and heard others gathering or going on vacation during winter break so I know not everyone followed the CDC guidelines to stay home and avoid gatherings. We saw the increase in numbers at each school after Thanksgiving so it's safe to assume we'll see increases again throughout January. I appreciate all precautions and guidelines set forth so far. My own son was sent home with a stomach ache. Because I had a suspension it was not COVID related, I did get him tested so he could return to school. I find it sad a child can't just not feel good for a day or two without having to be out of school for two weeks unless tested. But I also see the necessity and see it as one of the worst side effects of this virus. Our children are suffering and missing out on a lot but this is temporary. We do not know long term effects on children who contract it so keeping them healthy and clear of this virus should be our priority. Teachers should also be given the vaccine prior to full reopening so we can keep them safe. I've spoken to a few teachers who are happy with the way things are currently and don't want to risk their students health, their health or their family's health. Other districts are still in full DL and even some took these two weeks to go back to DL to avoid having to close schools due to large numbers after the break so why are we rushing to return to full return? The governor has announced his plans to help schools reopen. Please wait for more guidelines and help from the top before moving forward. Are you willing to open more DL classes if there's enough of us who do not want our children returning full time on the 11th? Please also change the dashboard to show actual case numbers and then a separate number for how many the asterisk applies to, the way it is now is confusing and unclear.</p>
53	Ana Rushton	Son goes to Carlton Oaks	<p>I feel that we should stay with half schedule. I feel it's been working well and its keeping staff and children safe.</p>
54	Rafa Lombardino	Santee residents with underlying conditions	<p>PLEASE reconsider your decision to reopen school starting January 11. There have been new community outbreaks confirmed throughout the county—including in school settings—, we have a Regional Stay Home Order in effect, and there's currently 0.0% ICU bed availability in Southern California. There were 3,000+ new cases reported on January 3 in San Diego County. We just came back from the holidays and people have traveled and participated in holiday gatherings. We cannot isolate Santee from the rest of the county. Most Santee residents work somewhere else outside the city. We have teachers and staff who live outside Santee. Some people in our schools have crossed state lines since the beginning of the pandemic, thus increasing the risk of community spread. Santee is not a bubble and we have people coming in and out of the city from other parts of the county and state. The decision to combine AM and PM cohorts so soon after the holidays is not a good idea. We have seen and heard from people in the city and in the county who are not taking proper precautions to avoid contracting and spreading COVID-19. Some people in the city, county, state, and country have made it very clear that they do not even believe COVID-19 is real, while others are unconcerned by this health emergency when they say that only 1% of people infected actually get hospitalized—the hospitalization rate in the county as of now is at 3.5%—as if it were okay to run the risk of getting sick or making our loved ones sick AND, on top of that, putting health professionals at risk of contracting the disease themselves and exposing them to professional hazards, which also include emotional and mental wellbeing, all the while potentially OVERCROWDING OUR HOSPITALS. Will schools be SCREENING EVERYONE coming in full-time to our schools to know who has made the decision to travel outside the city, county, and state to attend a holiday gathering? This is the exact behavior that goes against the recommendations that health professionals and the CDC have made for the holidays this year (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html) and could cause a significant spike in community spread cases, which has already seen an upward trend recently. PLEASE consider leaving AM and PM cohorts as is to minimize the number of students in a classroom at a time and ensure proper social distancing. PLEASE keep the hybrid system to ensure the SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF OUR TEACHERS and school staff. PLEASE consider returning to the debate on whether to resume a full-time schedule BY SPRING and/or as vaccines start to become available to the general public.</p>

55	Diana Garcia	Representing my 2nd grader at Rio.	With the rise of COVID cases in the county and the recent sent out emails regarding positive covid cases at Rio Seco during December , do you think we(parents) will receive more than “normal” emails regarding positive cases once ALL students return full time?
56	Aaron Kawczk	The Kawczk Family	<p>We have significant concerns with the Santee School District moving forward with the next phase of re-opening on January 11th. Our family has two members that are immunocompromised and we take many measures to limit possible exposure to COVID-19. With record numbers of COVID-19, a new more easily communicable strain appearing in the local area, record hospital ICU capacities, and the percentage of positive cases rapidly increasing, the action the board should be discussing is moving back to a distance learning environment. With many people and multiple local area businesses ignoring the Regional Stay at Home Order and/or preventative measure guidance, COVID-19 impacts are likely to continue to worsen.</p> <p>The costs of re-opening substantially outweigh the benefits, the ultimate cost being a person’s life. This next phase will bring more children into the classroom and in closer proximity to one another than the CDC recommended 6 feet while also increasing the amount of time in that setting. No matter the protective measures put in place in the classroom, they cannot be guaranteed to prevent accidental/intentional person-to-person contact, the cross-contamination across commonly touched classroom surfaces/objects, and the accidental/intentional ineffective wearing and removal of masks. An increase is likely with respiratory droplets inside the classroom and especially respiratory aerosols that can transmit COVID-19 which can linger in the air for hours if not effectively removed by ventilation. An increased danger will also be present surrounding the school campus during arrival and dismissal times, putting families in impossible to avoid close proximity to one another which will also be compounded by those that refuse to wear masks and practice social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines.</p> <p>Our community has not yet reached the point where protective measures can be relaxed and, in fact, they should be strengthened. We cannot let COVID-19 prevention fatigue enable our desires to return a sense of normalcy. Until a vaccine is widely distributed to the general public and herd immunity achieved, the only rational course of action is to stay the course, slow the spread of COVID-19, and save lives.</p>
57	Amanda Kelso	Public good and health	It is very disheartening to have to have this conversation again. The data is clear. Covid cases are at record high, public health officials are saying stay home, and hospitals and the staff are overwhelmed. One time could the message be, “The health of teachers and all school staff is our primary concern. We will continue with the hybrid model until Covid cases diminish or herd immunity is achieved with vaccines,” without teachers and staff begging for their health to be a concern? Thank you
58	Robert Arnold	Parent of student (Carlton Hills)	I believe “if it’s not broken, don’t fix it”! The idea of full time campus attendance is not a great idea in my opinion. There were COVID cases reported during the current school schedule, so imagine the increase of cases if you open up full time.
59	Charlotte Jervis	Parent at Chet F. Harritt	I understand and agree that kids need to be back in school full time and the cohorts were never a permanent solution however considering the well being of all students, staff and even family members I personally feel that sending our children back to school full time without restrictions being lifted is unthinkable. To imagine our children being forced to sit in their desks with these barriers that cause their work space to be even smaller, wear a mask for hours on end, not being able to have P.E. or a real outside recess with friends is a daily environment that seems unthinkable. This is not the only issue. The talk is to come back full time in a week but with the holidays barely over and our case numbers already sky high, I just don’t understand how forcing this at this time is the right thing to do. With the kids in cohorts they are getting one on one time with their teachers and even though it’s not as much in person time as we would all like I think it’s safe to say it’s quality time. It’s like the board is trying to fix a wheel that isn’t broken at this time. All everyone wants is for our children to be able to be in a safe learning environment where they can learn and thrive and with where the public is currently I just do not feel that full time is appropriate at this time.
60	Paul Barker	Carlton Oaks Parent	I ask you to leave the hybrid schedule as it is now and for the foreseeable future. There is no need to risk anyone’s safety or make an unnecessary change. Thank you.
61	Peggy	Myself	To Santee School Board,

	Achenbach		As a school bus driver, I would like to stay with the am/pm schedule we are in right now. I believe opening up to a full schedule will only make our numbers sky rocket. Thank you Peggy Achenbach
62	Heather W.	My household	To whom this may concern, I ask you to consider postponing Moving forward with full classes and full days until next school year. I am concerned that with numbers going sky high and hospitals being full, your plan of moving forward is just begging for more cases and is irresponsible in helping our community over come the spread. Why would our school district want to even take on that responsibility? The children can bring this virus home to their families! The more kids we add to a classroom the higher that chance becomes. We are asked not to hang out in large groups outside our own house holds. So then, why would it be ok for our children to go sit in a class with 30 other kids from several different house holds? My child's class was put on a 14 day quarantine 3 days before Christmas break. This created anxiety for my child and our family. My child didn't even want to go back to school today. The only thing that keeps him going is the fact that the class sizes are small and he only has to wear a mask for 2.5 hours. This is stressing the kids out and parents as well. The kids have adjusted to small classes and short days, why keep changing that? I'm not saying this way of learning is ideal, our school should take steps to get back to normal, but now is not the time. Thank you
63	Nicole Torres	Students and teachers.	Please plan to extend the hybrid schedule until the Corona Virus Pandemic is under control in southern CA. For now, especially, staying in hybrid is what is best for students and teachers (the people who are in the classroom) for multiple reasons; obviously health concerns, and the ridiculous plan for kids to sit behind plexiglass for 6.5 hours with little to no playtime or social interaction. There will not be an academic or social benefit to moving out of hybrid while we are under such strict conditions. The full day will only result in increased classroom shut downs, increased student behavior intervention, and decrease in student / teacher morale. Possibly, it's hard to understand if you are not working with children in a classroom right now, but please listen to the teachers, being at school right now is not normal. Everything that makes a regular school day fun and engaging is not possible...we can't see each other well, we can't hear each other well, we can't communicate and share ideas well, we can't interact with each other well. We (teachers) can't even console a crying or upset child the way we normally would! Let's not extend this already stressful and awkward classroom day.
64	Sara Cadena	Student	It would be irresponsible to open full time/full capacity while our infection rates are rising. Right now things are more controlled in the smaller cohorts, why make the unnecessary change while it's dangerous, when the hybrid days are working? Hope is on the horizon with vaccines, let's do things the right way.
65	Courtney Bueno	Teachers, students, and their families	I would like to express my concern for opening the schools as both a parent and a teacher. Most people agree that kids need to be at school but it's simply not safe. There are too many "what ifs". There is a new faster spreading strain in SD County, the hospitals are struggling, and there is not enough space in the ICU. Yes, children seem to not get it as bad, but they still get the virus, and they can spread it. What about the teachers and their families? Or the students who are being raised by grandparents and even great grandparents? The Governor has a very detailed strict plan for opening TK-2 but not until Feb. 15. In his plan, he says all staff and students will be tested regularly, but as far as I know, that is not currently in our plan. In addition, only counties with fewer than 28 positive cases per 100,000 can reopen. Right now that's only 11 counties out of 58. We need to wait until this novel virus is more under control. Thank you for your time.
66	Renee Burns	Parents/teachers	Covid numbers are skyrocketing. Santee has done a good job of keeping students safe with small class sizes. I think the board should hold off going to the next phase until San Diego county gets out of the purple tier. I don't think teachers and students would be able to be as safe in a crowded classroom at this time and we will start to see more outbreaks in classrooms. Our students have the advantage of in-person learning while most schools in the county are still fully virtual. I think this phase has been working well. I want to see my student back at school full time but when it is safe.
67	Michelle McNearney	Room 13 5th Grade Pride Academy	Happy New Year! As you gather to discuss the reopening plan and potential return to full time in class learning, I wanted to share with you some concerns from my classroom: Due to the uncertainty of this pandemic, there isn't a lot we can count on. What we do

know is that smaller cohorts not only keep students and teachers safer, but it allows for opportunities for focused and supported learning. Why would we increase risk to students and staff when the Governor is calling for people to stay home? Have you asked students? My students are telling me that they want to stay in am/pm cohorts because they can learn better. Some shared they are better focused for the shorter period of time at school. One shared that she can hear me better.

We have been back from holiday only one day, and I have had a family reach out and share that they are uncomfortable sending their student back to school, due to COVID, at this time. The family has faithfully sent their student to school, but with current health conditions, they are no longer comfortable. Additionally, I have been asked by other families if we are really returning full time, full classes on January 11. Families are concerned.

Our district is not currently staffed to handle the students wanting Distance Learning. This Pride family will be added to the ever growing wait list. How can we keep from losing these families to other districts or online learning programs?

Seeking certainty, please consider a hybrid model for the remainder of 20-21. More changes makes us all anxious. Please also consider organizing additional online learning classrooms to support families staying within our district.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

68	Barbi Vogel	self	<p>First, thank you for not abandoning the hybrid model yet. It's great to have the opportunity to work without the added stress of twice as many people on campus with us each day. Clearly, with Covid cases (over 171,000 in San Diego County) and Covid related deaths on the rise (over 1500 in just San Diego County) and no ICU beds available, we should be very careful about not expecting our numbers to skyrocket if we venture into the next phase of our "safe" reopening plan. I'm hoping you have visited schools. I'm hoping you saw how amazing the kids are adapting to these new normal expectations. I also hope you noticed areas of concern. Maybe you were able to see arrival and dismissal times, or lunch with our SDC classes. Now imagine lunch on January 11th with crowded tables filled with children that are not in masks and do not live in the same household. They are talking and eating for 30 minutes. We do not have the staff to take them to the playground. How long before we have to shut down a school? I think we are better off not risking it. Another concern that I have is that there are no training videos or materials that clearly show how to interact with students while maintaining physical distance, or the proper use of hand sanitizer and masks to protect the children while they are at lunch. We have staff members that are helping in other positions (project safe), then doing lunch duty. Staff members that are not staying 6 feet from children while they are eating. Also not maintaining the recommended 6-foot distance while on the playground. I could go on and on, however, I'm hoping I am not alone in thinking that bringing everyone back would be a mistake. Hopefully a mistake we avoid. Please consider the greater good and bring your patience to the table when making the decision on 'when' we revisit what the next phase should look like. Let's wait out this virus. Let's give the very new vaccine a chance to provide some protection.</p> <p>Thank you, IA Special Ed I SDC/ CP</p>
69	Cara Silva	Students	<p>Academics are essential but so are children's social and emotional well being. Once school is open full time, how is the board going to address these issues? How will children be expected to socialize, play and exercise?</p>
70	Marcella Zaleski	My son and teachers	<p>Dear Santee School Board, I applaud your previous decision to continue the current hybrid model due to COVID 19. I ask you to again look at the rising number of cases, the fact that schools are just returning from a 2 week break in which no one knows what types of exposures students and staff have encountered, the fact we are still in the purple tier with business and restaurants either shut down or at very limited capacity and that there is a stay at home order in effect indefinitely. This is still NOT the right time to reopen schools full day at full capacity. I feel blessed that my son is able to attend school every day for a half day in the safest way possible. However even with half days, my son's school was up</p>

			to 7 cases BEFORE winter break. If you bring everyone back next week, what do you think will happen?? Please consider the health impact you are making on our community by deciding to fully reopen schools. I ask that you put the safety of Santee students, staff and families first and continue the hybrid model until it is truly safe and responsible to reopen schools. Thank you.
71	Jason Stern	Mackenzie Stern, Ryder Stern	My kids want / need to go back to school full time.
72	Haley Shumaker	my children	Please consider, amid constant record high cases and a new, highly transmissible strain of COVID-19, that the district must do what works- the hybrid model. Hybrid is allowing for small groups and social distancing. Many of our teachers say they cannot properly distance their students if cohorts are combined. Please listen to our teachers and their concerns. If you are intending to vote to combine cohorts, please implement a regular testing plan for students, teachers, and staff. The science tells us that testing is key to containment. If kids cannot be properly socially distanced, and our teachers say they cannot, then you've got to implement a plan to test the school communities.
73	Anais	Anais	Leaving a second comment. I asked about distance learning. I don't feel comfortable sending my kids to school especially my son. I personally don't feel it's safe for kids to be back full time but I completely understand for the parents who do. If you guys do open up full time. Distance learning should be offered again for parents who don't want their children back full time or for those whom no longer feel comfortable having their child in School. When we were given the option for distance or in person learning. We had no idea what it would be like with this pandemic, we had very little time to make a choice and had to act fast. I didn't like how that was handle. I get emails once a week sometimes more with a positive case of covid. Please make distance learning available again. There shouldn't be a waiting list!
74	Michelle Johansen	Teachers	As a parent and teacher I understand the need and want for students to be back in the classroom. But, they are in the classroom. Having everyone back would create more problems then we have answers to. I feel that the Board needs to see that things with Covid are getting worse. We see our students everyday and have created some of the stability that they need right now. Until teachers can get the vaccine, I think we should stay in a hybrid model. If it is working then why do we need to change it?
75	Lisa Bowsman	Parent	All the same factors that existed prior to winter break when it was decided to delay full day return and the mixing of cohorts still exist today, full day return should be delayed for the same reasons it was initially delayed.
76	Anna King	Students and parents re: the district's reopening plan.	<p>As parents of a student in the district, we believe it would be premature to move forward with full reopening on January 11th for a number of reasons, including the following: 1. Since the last Board Meeting, Covid-19 numbers have soared and ICU beds are full. 2. We are now seeing the results of the family and friend gatherings over the holidays, and expect the surge in numbers to continue following recent New Year celebrations. 3. Under these circumstances, returning to full class sizes will likely endanger our teachers, students, and at-risk family members. 4. The current, cohort model appears to be working well and allows school staff and teachers to monitor proper mask-wearing (not pulled down under noses or chins) and distancing measures. Going back to full class sizes would not allow recommended distancing and would place an unreasonable burden on teachers to ensure appropriate mask-wearing.</p> <p>4. Covid-19 is spread through aerosols, and these build up in indoor spaces. Plexiglass will do little to prevent the accumulation of aerosols in the classroom, increased by combining the cohort groups and doubling occupancy in poorly-ventilated indoor spaces.</p> <p>We understand the current model is challenging for many families, and the district is under pressure to move forward with full reopening, but now is not the time.</p> <p>We urge you instead to keep the status quo, as a reasonable way to balance the economic concerns of parents who need their students back in school, with science-based recommendations that indicate that the number of students in an indoor environment will increase the likelihood of virus spread.</p>
77	Robert Swathwood	My family.	Cases are significantly higher now than when the board decided to not go to full classrooms. The district has had cases but it has been kept to a minimum with the AM and PM cohorts. My kids are both on the PM schedule and one of them had a child from the

			AM cohorts test positive. If we were in full classes my family would of had to quarantine as well. We need to keep going with what is working and not jump back into full classrooms.
78	Kerri Starr	Parent of student, PTA Treasurer, Full time employee	<p>I am requesting to extend the return to full class size due to the current increase in covid19 cases. As we are all aware, San Diego County is experiencing a surge in cases, and also has the new covid variant circulating. I feel pushing to go back to full class sizes Jan 11 would be a detriment and lead to additional avoidable community outbreak. I am worried for the teachers and staff in our community. I am also worried about the children not being in school but from my perspective, they seem to be doing a good job with the hybrid model.</p> <p>I work for Rady Children's Hospital and feel very concerned for our community if we do return to full classrooms. I honestly believe, if we can just continue hybrid for a little bit longer, while the vaccine gets pushed out, this would be ideal. To me, the benefits outweigh the risks.</p>
79	Summer Dew	619.749.5773 3rd Grade Parent & Educator in GUHSD	<p>I would like to express my grave concern regarding the plan to merge the AM/PM hybrids on January 11th. With our county currently in the purple tier per state guidelines and Santee has a case rate of 46.6, I do NOT see how it is possible to merge two cohorts together, maintain social distancing, and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Merging the two cohorts together is putting our children's lives at unnecessary risk. Full day instruction is what is best for students, but NOT at the cost of their lives and not at the expense of teachers' lives. With the alarming and steadily increasing case rate in our county after the holiday break, it is NOT SAFE to send students back to the classroom full time with all their peers. The current AM/PM hybrid model with 50% of the students in class at a given time is MORE than any other district in the county. Moving forward with more students in the classroom while our county is moving in the wrong direction with the case rate is reckless and careless. Our current case rate is climbing because people choose to ignore the safety protocols set out by the state and chose to participate in holiday travel and gathering in groups. The holiday season has concluded and from previous post-holiday outbreaks, we will see a surge in cases around two weeks after the holiday. Moving forward on January 11th is within that two-week post-holiday outbreak timeline, which is needlessly putting our children's lives at risk. Maintain the status quo of AM/PM hybrid models and revisit the idea after teachers have been vaccinated or follow the governor's suggested timeline. Carelessly, risking students' and teachers' lives because "parents" want their children back at school is not grounded in science.</p>
80	Josh Marin	Educational Growth	<p>As a parent, it is evident that my son, as well as many other children are not receiving the necessary education through the current hybrid program. He has school for 2-3 hours a day, and spends the rest of the day (on campus) at the before and after school program. The data does not show enough cases within the youth to keep these children from going to school and receiving the education they deserve. If a parent doesn't feel comfortable with sending their children back to school, that should be their choice. The school district has strict COVID-19 policies and procedures in place to keep the children and staff safe. The children need this for their education as well as their mental and physical health. Wash your hands, socially distance and wear a mask.</p>
81	Miranda Gordon	My family.	<p>The COVID-19 cases in our community are at an all time high. While children may not be affected by this virus as severely as adults, they are still at risk of COVID-19 and Multi-symptom Inflammatory Syndrome as well as spreading this virus to others within their community, classroom, and household. The Santee School District should not increase the time on campus to full-time at this time. The responsible action would be to once again pause this discussion and continue with the AM/PM cohorts. Thank you.</p>
82	Vince Zelaskowski	Human Race	<p>The cases are rising as expected. At this point wouldn't it be wise to scrap the plan to return all students at the same time until August 2021? Eliminate Spring break, move the last day of school to May 25th or 26th. If by then protocol allows in person graduations at that time then have graduations. Parents will have a more solid plan to work with versus "maybe" opening every few weeks.</p>
83	Amee Hughes	Aubrey Hughes	<p>I feel as though the board gave a lot of logical thought as far as the reopening plan at the last meeting and made the best decision to not move forward with a full reopening before the winter break. Things have only continued to get worse since then with cases, the state of the region, and even a new strain of Covid. I am asking for the sake of our children, teachers, school staff and community that the board give full consideration to pushing back a longer school day at this time. The best thing we can do right now is wait. There</p>

			should be no rush to fuller classrooms and longer days. Thank you.
84	Kevin Hermann	students and staff at Chet F. Harritt	I am voting to continue the AM/PM hybrid model. I don't see a necessity to move to full in person learning right now with the surge in Covid cases. I am beyond thankful that our kids get SOME time on campus and don't want to see that taken away should an outbreak occur. I know the majority of kids in San Diego County are not allowed to be on campus and I don't want to see that happen to our kids at Chet. Thank you.
85	Wendy Dunnigan	Teachers and Students	<p>I don't feel that it is the right time to bring back all students. I feel we should stay in the hybrid model. Let's take the virus out of the equation. In the district mission statement it says, "Providing an extraordinary education in an inspiring environment...". Does everyone that's not a teacher, principal, aide, or student realize what a student's day would look like?</p> <p>In the upper grades there would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -around 30 students in a classroom - sit in a plexiglass box with a mask on for 6 hours a day - a few breaks (where they may stand and talk) - every other day they have to eat lunch in their classroom - no P.E. or recess. <p>It doesn't sound like a very inspiring environment. If we can't make good on our Mission Statement then I think we need to stay in the hybrid model or rethink/change the procedures we have come up with for full-time in person learning during this time. Thank you.</p>
86	Alexis Hermann	students and staff at Chet F Harritt	I am proposing we continue with the AM/PM hybrid model until the surge in Covid cases reduces. Both of my boys are happy to be able to go to school, even if its just for the limited time they are on campus. I fear that if we push ahead to full in person learning we are risking another shut down and I don't want to see that happen to our kids. Thank you.
87	J. Y.	n/a	I think with the Covid numbers still on the rise and not improving yet, it seems it would be the interest in staying hybrid.
88	Joshua Pelfrey	I am a resident of Santee.	I urge the board to continue to view the impact COVID-19 is having on the county of San Diego as they make a decision to return to school full time. The Hybrid schedule has been working and truthfully distance learning may be more suitable when considering the health and wellbeing of our district's students and staff. These are unprecedented times and require unprecedented measures. I applaud the teachers and students preparedness and caution as they have shown the hybrid model to be effective. I support the continuance of hybrid learning as opposed to full return at this time. Lets do what's right for our students and teachers/staff. Respectfully, Joshua Pelfrey
89	April Griffiths	Child in district	Thank you for holding this meeting prior to making any concrete decisions. And thank you for listening to all of the concerns that were issued at the last meeting. We are still in a very precarious time with the new variant of Covid 19 being found in San Diego, low hospital bed availability and the high positivity rates. The new variant has been found in 4 children under the age of 10 and with it being more contagious this is concerning. The positivity rate has continued to climb since the holidays. Several districts that had in person classes chose to go remote for these 2 weeks after break and return to hybrid later in the month. When we left for break 27 cases for children were listed on our covid dashboard. Small cohorts is working. AM/PM shifts are working. Please keep this model. We are not seeing any signs yet that things are improving. We need to wait until we do.
90	Rachel Corbin	Parent of Carlton Oak students	I beg you to keep the hybrid model for the rest of this school year. The pandemic is at the worst we've seen and this is not the time to bring more kids together for a longer period of time. We've already been doing it for more than half the school year, its working ok, lets just continue it for the safety of everyone.
91	Helen Rosati	Santee School District Teacher	I ask that you please consider postponing the target date of full in-person instruction. We are still in the purple tier and have not yet experienced the new wave of cases that will most likely occur due to the Holiday Break. To add to this, a variant strain has been reported in San Diego County. I believe that it is in the best interests of all that we stay in the hybrid model until we are no longer in the purple tier. Thank you for your time.
92	Angela Panfili	STAFF, STUDENTS, & FAMILIES IN SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT	PLEASE do NOT have students return to full day on January 11th. It is too soon after the holidays. COVID cases are on the rise and now is not the time to be returning to full day when other districts regressed back to distance learning for the next two weeks after the holidays. Please reconsider opening full day to when it is safer to do so. Thank you.

93	Toni Ferris	Teachers and Student Safety	<p>I am hoping that the school board will decide to keep the current AM/PM cohort in place.</p> <p>The new cases of Covid 19 in San Diego County, along with Santee, has been drastically on the rise. With the higher number of cases, being in the purple tier, and under a stay at home order, now is not the time to double the amount of students in a classroom. Not only does it put the teachers, staff and students at higher risk, but also those who live in their households that health wise may already be at high risk.</p> <p>The eleven days after Thanksgiving, Santee's average new cases per day were 23, the eleven days since Christmas, Santee's average new cases per day is 63! That is nearly tripled in one month for the City of Santee!</p> <p>I pray that the board puts our teachers, staff, and students first and remain with the current AM/PM cohort.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration, Toni Ferris</p>
94	Kathleen Martinez	Kathy Martinez	<p>I have 2 students and a grandson at a Santee school. I believe that having them back full time is of great importance for their mental and academic stability. I have one that will be a special needs; much of which has been set off by the COVID restrictions imposed by our school board; that is suffering greatly with part time in person. She needs a full day consistent structure. I work in healthcare and see the numbers daily in our system and am very aware of what is happening out in our county. I believe that all safety precautions have been set up at our school and, as I have seen with before and after school care and our participation at the YMCA care, there have been no major case numbers for children. I believe that it is safer at school due to the extreme measures our schools have taken. These children are not the percentage of the county population that has chosen to party and/or not adhere to the COVID precautions. Our Santee community has been doing very well in comparison to many other areas in the County of San Diego. I understand the concerns you voiced at your last meeting and those that are based on out of our area contact. I strongly feel that if you do not open up our schools we will see extreme mental and academic concerns in our children in the near future. I hope and pray that you do listen to the needs of our children and give them the ability to move forward. Thank you.</p>
95	Holly Ellis	Sage Ellis	<p>Please wait until COVID-19 rates are no longer in the "Purple" before resuming full-time school schedules (perhaps in the spring). I am thankful for the current small class sizes and wouldn't want to push it and have to return to distance learning. Thank you!</p>
96	Joseph Kemery	self	<p>During your November 2020 board meeting, you cited the increased COVID numbers as one of many key factors as to why we needed to postpone our return. Exactly what has changed for the positive? Absolutely EVERY metric used to measure the spread of this disease and how we can keep one another safe has gotten worse. Community outbreaks are on the rise, cases per day are still on the rise, and a stay at home order has been extended throughout our county. We currently are without ICU beds in our region, and have yet to see a plateau in new cases. It seems we are just starting to see the results of the winter holiday season. Add on to this that San Diego County now has the new variant strain of COVID, which is reported to be far more contagious than the original virus. We finally have a light at the end of this dark tunnel. We must reconsider the January 11th return date now. Cramping kids together affects the entire Santee community. Although not ideal, we are all making this hybrid model work. Through SIX FEET of social distancing and masks, we've found success. Students are learning and growing. I do not want our numbers to skyrocket because we have been pushed into a dangerous situation that is absolutely avoidable. Plexiglass is not a replacement for social distancing. We should be setting goals and targets at this time, rather than dates, that will use this community data to guide further reopening plans. We have a vaccine on the horizon and we know that these numbers are not going to improve before January 11th. Please do not gamble with our lives. Please keep the kids in the hybrid arrangement until it is safer.</p>
97	Sandra Coe	Teachers	<p>I feel that hybrid should continue as the numbers are surging in our county. As a teacher I won't feel safe with 24 students all day until I have had both vaccine. Thank you.</p> <p>Sandra Coe Sycamore Canyon 1/2 combo</p>

98	Ashley Mullins	Chloe and Carter Mullins	<p>I strongly support our children returning for full days and hope the board pursues returning on the current date proposed of January 11. My children come home from school everyday saying how badly they and their friends want to return for full days. It's devastating as a parent to continually tell them the date keeps changing.</p>
			<p>If, however, the date is changed again, I ask and propose rather than focusing on a specific return date, the board voices what parameters they are comfortable returning under. Is it cases per a certain amount of people? Total percent positive? Cases among the schools? Etc. Rather than have a date we focus on, if we knew what the specifics the board members are comfortable with would help us plan better and not cling to false hope.</p>
99	Ramona Lampe	students, parents, and teachers	<p>I would like to strongly urge you to keep students and teachers in the hybrid model until cases go down in the SD County as they are at an all time high. This will protect all of us during this unprecedented time. As the more contagious variant of COVID has also been found and may have been here longer than we know (as our cases are higher than most states at this time), it seems unwise to increase contact at this time. After Thanksgiving, we saw a surge, and we are sure to begin seeing another very soon from the Christmas/New Year holiday. More importantly since the vaccine should be given to teachers soon that is an even better target date; however, that still doesn't prevent families from becoming ill. Please keep reopen dates tied to data rather than arbitrary. There can always be at least a weeks notice for reopening when the data warrants it. Also, a limited grace period for attendance could be granted to parents should they have issues with childcare or other issues and need more time to get their family organized. Thank you for considering these issues.</p>
100	Laurie Rush	Myself	<p>With the increase in covid cases and a new strain of the virus I would ask that we continue with the hybrid system we have in place. On a daily basis we are short staffed. Staff from support positions like language specialists, RTI math support teachers are constantly being pulled to cover classrooms because WE DON't have enough subs. Because teachers are getting sick. Do we have a plan for rainy day coverage? Do we have room to social distance at lunch? Do we have a plan? No we do not. Hopping it doesn't rain is not much of a plan. We still are not ready to go back full time.. I hope you do the right thing, the safe thing send us home or keep us on the hybrid.</p>
101	Lidia Gonzalez	8th grade student	<p>Why is there a wait list for students to return to full time distant learning?</p> <p>My child has been exposed to COVID on campus on more than one occasion, I do not want him to return to school, why is he being marked absent for missing the two hours?</p>
102	Lori Harris	Teachers	<p>Dear Board Members, in light of the recent increase in Covid cases in San Diego, I'm hoping you will reconsider having all students come back on Jan. 11th. Board members that stated they wanted to visit each school to work with teachers and staff on a full return plan have not to my knowledge. There should not be a rush to send all students back until teacher input can be addressed. Teachers are the only ones that truly know how much work goes into Hybrid teaching and what it is like to be in a classroom when most districts are online .We are willing to continue to teach with the Hybrid model because we know that we can address individual student needs, teach with no behavior issues and maintain safety procedures already in place. There will be no social, academic or safety "positives" to having all students in our classroom. In regard to safety, the plexiglass is essentially a cubicle of germs. In order for us to work with an individual student, we now have to step inside their cubicle making it unsafe for teachers. We could help them from more of a distance before the plexiglass was installed. We now have 12 students distanced in the classroom safely, however, 24 will not be distanced safely. Overall, adding 500 more students to a school of 1000 will simply increase student and teacher Covid cases. In regard to their social growth, students are not allowed to meet in pairs, groups or whole class. In a primary classroom, it is essential that they learn how to work with a group of their peers. Story time is typically on the rug whole class but not anymore. Educational centers for ELA and Math will not occur. Lunch will be inside, at their single desks that they will sit in all 6 hours (wearing a mask for 6 hours is hard enough for a teacher much less 6 and 7 year olds) The absence of these critical social skills will continue with a full day schedule along with a host of new problems. With more students comes more behavior problems. With more hours in school comes boredom from sitting in their desk without</p>

			<p>the chance to move or socialize with their classmates. With the Hybrid model we are able to stay focused and teach the core subjects: reading, writing, and math which allows us to focus on specific skills the students may have missed since the online program began last March. Please listen to teacher's concerns and respect that we are the "experts" when it comes to what's best for students. Full class return is not what's best for students!</p>
103	Christina Rae	Myself	<p>For Discussion Item D.1. - when to return to full time school. I would like to submit my comments to the board that they not go back to full time school on 1/11/2021. In light of the current County of San Diego covid numbers, the confirmed presence of the mutated covid in our community, and the fact that ICU beds are limited, the health and well being of our students and teachers should be the priority and FULL time in person learning should be pushed off for at least a month to see if the numbers can come down, to see when vaccines can be put into place and make sure the community is making a safe decision for all parties involved. The new covid mutation has completely shut down Europe due to its rate of contagion being higher.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
104	Julie Boerman	Teachers	<p>The COVID-19 case rates have continued to increase since the board last met to discuss the full time return for students. The current data does not support a decision to move out of the hybrid phase on Jan.11. The effects of the increased spread of COVID-19 are felt beyond just the numbers of active cases. In addition to an increase in the case rates, there has been a significant increase in the number of students and teachers having to quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure. Some districts made the move back to distance learning following the winter break in anticipation of the spike in cases after the holidays. Given the current circumstances, we should not be increasing the number of people on campus at one time and combining cohorts. We cannot predict when things will improve and should remain in hybrid for the remainder of the school year.</p>
105	John Stearns	All children	<p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>I am a tax paying parent of a child attending a school in this district. A parent who has had the pleasure of watching an expanding, filled with imagination, larger than life, mind with as much enthusiasm for knowledge that I can only expect from any child. Tonight you are voting whether or not our children, and I say our children because our responsibility in a community is to treat everyone as their own, will begin full time in-classroom learning. I understand that none of us could have ever imagined facing a situation we have been placed in front of but for the last 9 months we have heard nothing but phrases like "listen to the scientists" or "there is a light at the end of the tunnel", however I see no light as you continue to further extend our children's hybrid schedule. What science do we believe? What light are we supposed to see? The longer this continues I further believe you are forcibly being held to an agenda, an agenda we never voted for, an agenda we never approved of. These votes are beginning to look like an agenda forced upon us by a select few because of a select few and not for the benefit of the majority. You are all voted in and I ask that you remember that when you cast your vote to begin full-time in-classroom learning.</p>
106	Lea Hallinan	our community, teachers, my family	<p>Please hold off on setting a return date or even considering the possibility of a full return this school year until the health of our community has improved.</p>
107	Andrea Gadd	Teachers and students	<p>With the increase in cases in San Diego County I do not feel it would be responsible of the board to move forward with a full return. Two weeks ago, on 12/22, the number of positive cases for Santee since March was at 1604. Today, on 1/5, the number of positive cases has risen to 2177. That is an increase of 573 cases in a two week span in the small city that we serve. Thinking about the health of my students, myself, and my own child who attends school in our district, I encourage you to rethink the full return with all students. At this point I feel we should take caution in setting a new date and wait until we see the rate slow and the health of our community improve.</p>
108	Sue koussa	Daughter in santee school district	<p>Going to full time and a class with 24 students in one room is not safe with Covid cases on the rise! The district is not 100 % prepared to go back safely! Please consider the safety of everyone! Most districts are going virtually for the month of January! There were many Covid cases in santee district before winter break, with cases are on the rise after the holidays, it's just not safe!</p> <p>Thank you</p>

109	Helmut Fritz	Aileen Fritz, Fritz Family, 619-733-3464, helmut@fritz.us.com	<p>I am asking the school board to see reason and continue with cohorts the way we are attending school now. We do not need full time, full day in classrooms as we dive deeper and deeper into the purple tier. Vaccines, as has been communicated, are not likely to be available for the general public until April or May at the earliest. Also consider that it is not just students and staff that are affected by outbreaks. The entire community is affected as the virus spreads through families.</p> <p>If you wish to reevaluate perhaps a monthly schedule is appropriate, Also, please do not select arbitrary dates to go back full time, full day (14 days or so after Christmas?). What about New Year's? New Year's did not even seem to be considered in selecting a return date; and it was just as much a gathering day as Christmas was. If the holidays were being considered as dates to wait the 14 days, we should have considered the 14th or 15th, not the 11th. Regardless, we should stay the course here for the foreseeable future and remain in split cohorts; preferably for the remainder of the school year. This provides some amount of protection as has been demonstrated for the first half of this school year, but also provides stability for the children and allows some modicum of interaction with their peers.</p> <p>Helmut Fritz</p>
110	Eryn Williams	Addison and Avery Williams	<p>The board needs to look at the current numbers. It would be irresponsible to have students return full-time at full capacity at this point. As a result of holiday gatherings, the numbers are continuously rising at a rapid rate. Lakeside and Poway school districts are being extremely responsible during this time, and they are having 2 weeks of distance learning following the 2 week winter break. The safety of students, teachers, and families need to be the main priority as the board reevaluates the reopening plan.</p>
111	Aleksandra Lamons	Parent	<p>Please open up the schools full time. Enough of this hybrid model. California has the most restricted laws and the highest rates of Covid, Florida is wide open and has better Covid numbers. Locking down the school is not working for a virus that doesn't kill children. Most teachers are younger than myself and would not be impacted by Covid. It is a virus that like flu will continue to mutate itself and in the meantime kids will suffer. Time to be a leader of the community, a an example of courage for the kids. Kids need to learn and it is not good for them to stay home in the name of a virus with 99% survival rate.</p>
112	Lorrie Abboud	Lorelei Abboud	<p>Unfortunately, COVID numbers are still high and ICUs are full. It is still safest for our kids to be in class with social distancing with limited students. Please keep are kids healthy and safe.</p>
113	Anne Ahwal	My family and our community	<p>Please reconsider opening full time next week based on the high numbers of covid-19 and the variant strain. As a mom of 3 students, an aunt to several students, and on-site substitute I am very concerned for the safety of my children, nieces, nephews, myself, all other students and all staff. The am/pm Cohort schedule may not be ideal, however, trying to accommodate all the students full time during a pandemic is much worse. I hope you will reconsider for the safety of our community.</p>
114	Megan Houfek	Teachers	<p>I am writing because I would like the board to reconsider the January 11th return date. Numbers are still on the rise and it seems like an odd time to make such a big shift in our school day.</p> <p>My students are currently happy and excited to come to school each day. They are making lots of growth academically and socially all while staying safe. I worry about how their attitude towards school might change when they're asked to sit behind their desk in a mask for a full day instead of just half. I know that we want students back in school full time but I worry that we are overlooking all of the wonderful things that are happening on school campuses each day. I worry that we are rushing to return full-time without considering how that might impact the mental and physical health of students and teachers. I don't have the answer about the perfect date to return full time but I do think it would be in our best interest to hold off until numbers look better in our state and county.</p>
115	Brian Rapisardi	Ava & Harlow Rapisardi	<p>The kids need to go back full time. Follow the CDC guidelines as best as possible (even though science has been wrong this whole time) but the children need a full day of instruction, instead of 2 hours and then having to figure out the rest on their own at home.</p> <p>Harlow is a kindergartner and has no social time, arts and crafts or playtime in school.</p>

			<p>Instead she has homework on an iPad. Not right for a kindergartener.</p> <p>Ava struggles with a few areas and needs more one on one in person attention.</p> <p>I understand the threat of opening affects the teachers as they are more vulnerable, however there are millions of people working together for other jobs taking the same risks</p>
116	Erin Enslow	Teachers	<p>While I understand the eagerness and enthusiasm that the board has shown regarding a full student return in 6 days, I am apprehensive and uncomfortable with having 24 students in my classroom for any amount of time. In my classroom, and in many others, students will not be more than 3 feet apart at best. Given the local Covid numbers spiking, as well as San Diego still being in a stay at home order prohibiting gatherings of any size, I feel that it is irresponsible and irrational to push for a full student return. I wish that we could give families a date, just like I wish that we could predict when Covid would be over. However, that isn't how this works. We're in a pandemic, this is uncharted territory, and we're making the best of the situation. What we're doing now is working. Students are able to see their cohort of friends, get social time, and get out of the house while still keeping us all safe for the greater good. I'm asking you, yet again, to delay the full return of students. This time, without setting a "target date". Let's just make it out of this pandemic happy and healthy.</p>
117	Erin Kole	My child at Carlton Hills.	<p>Dear Elected Board Members of the Santee School District,</p> <p>No other school district in San Diego County that is currently using the hybrid model has plans to open full-time while we remain in the Purple Zone. Just yesterday San Diego County reported that 32 cases of the more contagious strain of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been identified. Children may "recover" more quickly if they "catch" Covid-19, but I do NOT want my child to catch this virus at all! The Santee Schools Plan is NOT requiring students to wear masks until third grade. Students in preschool through second grade can catch COVID-19 and show no symptoms at all. To have a classroom full of these students and more of them on campus at once is incredibly dangerous. This virus is spread through the air. How are we to be sure there is enough ventilation in the classrooms? How are we to be sure desks can be set apart six feet with all the students in class?</p> <p>Ms. El-Hajj, I read in the Board Minutes from November 19th that you noted "the taxpayers deserve a full-days education." The hybrid model is a full-day model of education. The District has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on iPads and technology and now they have become extremely useful. The students are able to be with their teachers half of the day and complete more work before or after work the other part of the day. They are receiving a FULL day of instruction. Please note that parents are not the only taxpayers in Santee that support the Santee School District. All of the tax payers in our community deserve to keep our children healthy and to keep our community healthy.</p> <p>Ms. Ryan, please vote logically tonight. COVID-19 is NOT an issue! San Diego County is in the Purple Zone and we have a new strain of Covid-19. The vaccine is starting to be distributed. Why the rush? Lives are at stake. Please do not vote based on feelings for one side or the other. The only feelings belong to those who have lost loved ones to Covid-19.</p> <p>Mr. Burns, Ms. Levens-Craig, and Mr. Fox, I hope you will vote for an extension. Please do the right thing for our students, our amazing teachers, school staff, and Santee community.</p> <p>Ms. El-Hajj, I also read in the minutes that you "took great offense on some of the comments, especially the ones that read the Board did not care about their employees." You "acknowledged that everyone has a right to say and believe what they think." Yes, we do know this. You may find citizens will say or write a lot that may personally offend you. Board Member El-Hajj, please keep in mind that you ran for the office of board member and were elected by the registered voters of Santee. You are an elected official. You are a politician. Ms. Ryan, you are an elected official as well. We will remember how you vote tonight.</p>

			Thank you, Erin Kole mother, registered voter, taxpayer
118	Lena hayawi	I represent my son, nieces and nephews	I do not feel safe sending my son to school full time knowing we are the top state with the highest numbers. For all our children's sake and the health of our teachers we need to put them all first and push back the full time day. Now with the new virus out and the rapid spread of it we really need to take that in account as well.
119	Serena Elias	Representing my daughters, nieces and nephews	I am highly uncomfortable sending my children to school full time knowing numbers are increasing plus a new strand of the virus here in San Diego. I believe we should wait and see how the numbers are in the next month or two especially after the holidays. The children and teachers/staff are safer this way and plus the children are doing well with this cohort schedule and still learning and striving.
120	Carrie Trantalis	Students, staff and the community	Please reconsider opening when our numbers are so high. Hybrid works. Please wait to decide on a date until we are in a less restrictive tier.

D. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

1. 2020-21 School Reopening

Superintendent Baranski shared that based on the data she had previously presented, she felt more comfortable with the cohort integration in November. Since then, there has been an increase in case numbers and she did not support her recommendation of cohort integration at this time. Superintendent Baranski shared being fortunate that students can continue in a hybrid model, for in-person learning five days a week, and recommended the students continue in the current hybrid model. She also recommended that instead of setting another target date, they monitor case rates and have a standing discussion item on the agenda to review data and determine which scenario to use for the integration of cohorts. Superintendent Baranski noted the benefits of continuing with hybrid are the small classrooms that may potentially help reduce infectious rates.

Member Fox stressed his support for Superintendent Baranski's recommendations. He shared there were various parties and/or people traveling to the desert, over the New Year's Eve weekend and being surprised that protocols are still not being followed after being told for almost a year to wear masks, social distance, wash our hands, and no large gathering to slow the spread.

Member Burns shared his position has not changed and felt strongly this was the right course of action for the District. He clarified he also wanted students to return to full-day instruction, but not at this time. Member Burns shared that everything we do during this pandemic is a risk (i.e., going to the store, schools, etc.) but the hybrid model was in the best interest for students. He reiterated the importance of the students' education, and social and emotional well-being, and the need to be seen by their educator daily. Member Burns noted learning the toll it has taken on students, from other Districts, that do not offer in-person learning and shared being proud of all certificated and classified staff for going above and beyond to help our students move forward. He acknowledged this was the best course of action for students, based on the data being presented by medical professionals. Member Burns addressed the participants joining the meeting via zoom, and encouraged that they contact school administration, the District Office, or the Board for questions or concerns. He shared there is a lot of misinformation on social media that is not helping our community as a whole. Member Burns stressed his support of Superintendent Baranski's recommendation to stay in hybrid.

Member El-Hajj shared she has been a supporter of cohort integration, but acknowledged this is not the right time. She shared still believing the District is capable of keeping the students safe and the need for students to be in class more than two hours and forty-five minutes a day. Member El-Hajj stressed her support of postponing the integration of the cohorts. She shared some there was a lot of misinformation in the public comments and some eluded to keeping the hybrid model for the rest of the year. Member El-Hajj shared

she still believed this was not the right thing to do; and the need for students to be back for full-day instruction. She noted her goal was to continue to push for full integration of the cohorts, but not knowing when this would be. Member El-Hajj noted a parent's public comment suggested developing criteria for student return, instead of establishing a target date. And suggested basing the criteria on case rates reaching a certain low, and/or similar criteria from November, when the decision to integrate was initially approved. She shared this would help families also with gaging a possible return date.

President Ryan shared her support of the Superintendent's recommendations; and shared having the same sentiments on the need to have the students return to full-day instruction as soon as possible for multiple reasons. She noted the importance of the students' mental and emotional health and shared learning of a 10-year-old student had committed suicide due to the isolation. She went on to acknowledged everyone for doing their best to make sure our students are safe. President Ryan expressed her personal apologies to the parents that want their students to return to full-day instruction, as was promised by the District. She noted the direction the District is taking is very candid and honest, on reviewing data at every Board meeting and setting criteria to give families the opportunity to anticipate when it is best on integrating cohorts. President Ryan shared healthcare facilities have started administering the vaccinations with additional vaccines coming to the County for distribution to Category 1B (which includes school personnel). Member Ryan noted there is a six-week period to determine if the vaccination has taken effect in your body; and that will also help with gauging when it is safe to integrate the cohorts. She shared her hopes for our staff to take advantage of this opportunity since there are a lot of people who are choosing not too because they have concerns about other vaccinations. Member Ryan noted she had been administered the first dose and only had a sore arm. She is anticipating the second dose soon. Member Ryan noted her support of not setting a date but reviewing data and developing criteria. She encouraged those in attendance to provide their perspectives on criteria.

Member Levens-Craig shared reading through all 120 public comments and shared people have brought up some very valid concerns. She acknowledged concerns on plexiglass, hybrid being a relatively safe and effective model for the time being, or dealing with increases because of holiday gatherings, concerns with younger students wearing masks for a longer time period, issues with the amount of room, and full-time distance learning, etc. had been heard and are all valid concerns. Member Levens-Craig shared agreeing with Member El-Hajj and noted the parent's public comment alluded to setting expected conditions, rather than a timeframe. Member Levens-Craig shared agreeing that the Board should work on establishing criteria; and expressed her gratitude towards Superintendent Baranski for her recommendation. She noted approximately 90% of the public comments supported staying in the current hybrid model. Member Levens-Craig shared supporting the Superintendent's recommendation.

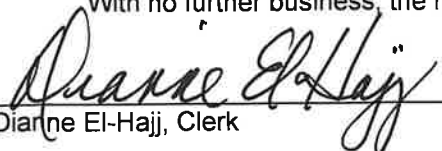
Member Burns moved approval of the Superintendent's recommendation to stay in hybrid for the current time, have a standing item for Board discussion, and to establish criteria for full-day return.

Superintendent Baranski acknowledged the student's suicide was tragic, but clarified the student was not a Santee School District student.

Motion:	<u>Levens-Craig</u>	Burns	<u>Aye</u>	El-Hajj	<u>Aye</u>
Second:	<u>Fox</u>	Ryan	<u>Aye</u>	Fox	<u>Aye</u>
Vote:	<u>5-0</u>	Levens-Craig	<u>Aye</u>		

E. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the regular meeting of January 15, 2021 was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.


Dianne El-Hajj, Clerk


Dr. Kristin Baranski, Secretary