

MDUSD encourages public participation in district business by way of public comments.

One method of participation is to submit a public comment by email. Emails to BoardComments@mdusd.org are automatically distributed to each board member, and will be entered into the public record when received on meeting days. Public commenters may request anonymity (in the email) to omit their email addresses from the public record. Email attachments will not be accepted.

Public comment emails may be monitored below.

Public Record:

<amy.bartolotta@gmail.com>

Thank you for this effort to secure the much needed incentive funds.

In no way should this tentative agreement allow union leaders and district leaders to take a break. This is a minuscule step towards getting what our students need; a full time in person learning environment. We should be ashamed of ourselves for thinking this mediocre hybrid schedule is to be applauded when it directly impacts all working families who can't make this schedule work for them.

Hopefully, as many families as possible who can participate in this proposed in-person scenario will take advantage to show everyone that we expect to be back full time in the fall.

Please return to the bargaining table immediately to address all constantly changing scenarios for a FULL TIME in person schedule for the 21-22 school year.

Amy Bartolotta

<valeriew74@icloud.com>

First thank you for the work on pushing for a choice for families; a long overdue right. Now that the MOU is in place please start to address fall. Many families do not have the option to wait until August to determine what actions they will take for their families, so I would hope that MDUSD AND MDEA are not sitting on their laurels waiting. My hope is that this pandemic has taught all of you that there needs to be planning happening AT ALL times. With the exodus happening in the district the time is now to stop the bleeding. You NEED to give the parents of the district the respect they deserve and start to mend the broken trust: this is to both MDUSD AND MDEA.

Thank you,

A parent of 3 in MDUSD (for now)

<yangtime@gmail.com>

Hi there,

First, thank you for all that you are doing and the work you are putting in to find the best solutions for all of our kids, not just the ones with parents who have loud voices. Especially those that are underrepresented and/or under resourced.

It has gotten ugly between all the comments out there and it does feel like the board has the best intentions and is trying to wade through difficult waters.

My very basic question is, once we start hybrid / going back to school for 2-3 days in afternoons and we find that this does not work well for our family, is there flexibility in changing our minds and not doing this any longer? Will it be up for the individual school site's to make this policy / determination?

Also, what will be the conditions to shut hybrid down? If there is a case, does the school class or the whole site close down again for 7 days? 14 days? Is that being defined by the district or the school site?

Thank you,

Jenny

<biggb55@sbcglobal.net>

To the Teachers,

On Pleasant Hill Road at Mangini Farms, someone has hung signs telling the children they are superheroes. The children have made the best of a situation they did not create. But, they are not the superheroes in this story. The children are the victims.

The villain in this story is played by the politicians, bureaucrats, and unions.

Those that should take on the role of hero, and who the public often label as heroes, have not yet filled the role. I call on the teachers to step up and play their part. Stand up to the villain, defend the children.

I acknowledge the teachers of my children have made a valiant effort at “distance learning”. Twelve months ago when the schools first closed, we reacted based on the limited knowledge we had of this new virus. Now, twelve months later, we have much more knowledge about the virus, transmission, treatment and how to prevent spread. Science no longer justifies the closing of schools and keeping the children from learning.

I have chosen to keep my children in the public school system over the last fifteen years because I believe in supporting local/community institutions. Because my children have had good teachers. Because I believe my children should socialize with their peers in the local community. And, because I want them to gain the experiences and life lessons from participating in music, arts and sports programs. In all levels of school, participation of families brings strength to the school and to the community.

I consider the continued use of “distance learning”, in spite of scientific evidence that it does not work and is not necessary, a breach of contract. Not just the legal contract between the school district and the teachers, but a breach of the contract of trust a community has with those entrusted to teach its children. I call on the teachers to stand up, act the part of heroes. Stand up to the villain. Defend the children. Support the needs of our community's children, not the selfish dictates of the union, bureaucrats and politicians. Open the schools.

If my children have no arts, music or sports programs to participate in, if my children are not taught in person by teachers in a classroom, then I see no point in continuing to support the public school system. Half hearted hybrid schedules that are nothing more than supervised study hall do not suffice. Wear masks and use appropriate distancing. But, if the situation does not change, if schools do not return to five days a week full time instruction by a teacher in a classroom, I will disenroll my children. I will encourage my friends and family to disenroll their children. I will work to unseat each member of the school board until we have a board that works for the strength of our community, the importance of our families and the needs of our children.

<rathdon@gmail.com>

Yesterday my autistic daughter had yet another meltdown. She was working hard on her math problems, when yet again, there were connectivity issues with Zoom. We were forced to take the rest of the morning off from school because we couldn't solve the problem as she became more and more frustrated. Another day of learning lost.

Special needs students, along with the rest of the students of MDUSD, have been out of school for over a year now. Many of us have been working throughout the entire pandemic, and many others are glad to be back at work now that cases and hospitalizations are way down. While I appreciate that some people didn't sign up for a "hazardous" job, we have learned a lot about the virus, how to contain it, and where it is most likely to spread. The CDC and WHO have both recommended opening schools due to a low risk of transmission. Schools have opened throughout most of the country. Last I heard, zero infections of teachers have been linked to schools. As usual, Contra Costa County is behind the rest of the country.

I am a firefighter. I interact with the public daily. I worked two weeks in an understaffed COVID ICU. When I'm off work, I'm helping my daughter with school. My ex-wife works in healthcare. She also stays home on her off days to help our daughter with school. My fiancé works in a local ICU. She homeschools her children because the current system was failing them, just like it is failing many other students. It's safe for us, but not for school staff?

PLEASE stop using my special needs child as a bargaining chip. The politics can come later. You've had over a year to figure this out. You have the exact same PPE and masks that we do in healthcare. If we can work and school our children safely, why can't you? Why are schools safe to open everywhere else but not in our county, where Covid cases are down 90%?

I'm currently starting the process of removing my daughter from the district, along with many other parents doing the same. You've given us very little choice. If you won't put our children first, they will need to go somewhere else. If this continues much longer, teachers aren't going to have enough students to go back to. If you pay attention, you'll notice teachers are being given pink slips in other areas due to a lack of enrollment. That will happen here too if this continues.

While I appreciate my daughter's teacher and staff very much and they are doing the best they can under the circumstances, it's time to bring the kids who need in person learning back to the classroom before even more damage is done to them. Some of the comments I've seen arguing to keep schools closed are extremely uneducated, obviously biased, or just plain lies. Please think of the students you serve and put them first.

Thank you for your time.

Donnie Rath

Sent from my iPhone

<jmpgurl@gmail.com>

March 16, 2021

Dear Board Members and Dr. Clark,

First, I would just like to address the wonderful milestone agreement that happened today about bringing our children onto campus for the first time in a year. It was a wonderful way to start my day today knowing that my children will finally be able to be in a classroom, see their teachers, and see their friends again. I cannot begin to express my gratitude for each of you who voted and did what was best for the children of MDUSD. For those of you who did not want to have the children back in the classroom this year, you should be ashamed of yourself as an educator. If you cared about the education and mental health of the several thousands of children within this school district you would not have voted against it. You have hurt this community more than you know and the worst part of it, you hurt the children of this community.

The second thing I would like to address is that while I do appreciate having the children back on campus for the hybrid study hall, this cannot possibly be the way the children are expected to go on next year in the fall. By the fall, everyone who can and wants to be vaccinated will have been and herd immunity should be well established, so there should be no reason why we cannot go back to in person learning five days a week. I am not saying I expect a full level of normalcy by fall in the classroom, but there should be on campus learning every day by then. I would hope that over this summer the Board and MDEA can work hard to strategize a learning model/models that would benefit all families.

Thank you so much for your time. Those of you who work hard for our students are appreciated more than you know.

Sincerely,

Elisia Cortez

<walter.eckalbar@gmail.com>

Hello Board of Trustees and Superintendent Clark,

While I am appreciative of the work that has gone into the tentative hybrid MOU between MDEA and MDUSD, and any return to in-person school is a welcome change. I have noticed two primary problems with this MOU:

- 1) It mandates 6 foot distancing at all times, both in classrooms and outdoors, all in completely masked environment. State and CDC guidelines DO NOT support this requirement. Additionally, CDC guidance is likely to be reduced to 3 foot distancing minimums in the very near future. The reason for this is simple, there is NO SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE supporting a 6 foot minimum. We need to continue to follow official guidance to ensure students receive their state constitutionally

guaranteed right for a free and appropriate education, while also following state law that this right is executed to the greatest extent possible!

2) I also find the clause mandating school RE-CLOSURES should we reenter the Purple Tier as completely unacceptable. While everyone is hopeful that vaccine roll outs will prevent another wave of cases, we are but ~2.5 cases per 100K away from the Purple Tier as we speak. It is entirely possible that case rates could creep back up over that threshold without a full blown 3rd wave and our students would return home. As with point 1 about, this provision is not part of state or CDC guidance, which allows for schools that have reopened for in-person learning to remain open regardless of case rates. While such measures might be reasonable in the abstract, the now 10 cases per 100K is not an appropriate threshold. TK-6 grades are permitted to reopen at the 25 cases per 100K rate. This might be a more appropriate alternative.

Given these two points, I encourage the board to not approve this MOU until these issues are corrected by adding language to allow for modification of the distancing following state and CDC guidance, as well as removal of the re-closure clause or amending the case rate to be substantially higher.

Thank you,

Walter

<jgwolson@yahoo.com>

As you know by now, I tend to use baseball analogies from previous public comments.

We are going into extra innings now. We appear to be huddling up more and not kicking up as much dirt on the mound. We see progress but there is much more game to be played. Now we turn to the team managers to help our coaches and players feel as prepared as possible. We need to trust, communicate and problem solve together. We know there are going to be a few bad pitches, as well as questionable calls and the fans understand that is part of the game. Throwing in the towel is not an option. This spring hybrid can be our extra innings to build confidence. We want to get to the World Series and that is 5 full days in the fall.

Thank you,

Jill Walson

<amandagav@gmail.com>

I am happy to hear that a tentative MOU agreement has been reached with MDEA and I hope it works out that students can return to a hybrid model later this month. I appreciate Dr. Clark's advocacy for in person time for the students and also the board's approval of the hybrid timeline last week.

I am a bit concerned about some of the language in the MOU, especially where it says the district will have to shut down again if the county returns to the purple tier. This re-closure is not specified in state or CDC guidance. Kids need to be prioritized and schools need to be kept safe and open.

Although it is wonderful that kids will get to return to school in some capacity this year, it is really a very small baby step. This hybrid model must be a temporary solution. I hope the board moves quickly to the next priority, which is returning to full time, 5 days per week in person learning for the 2021-22 school year. Knowing it took 35+ days of bargaining to reach an agreement for the very limited hybrid model, the time to start for fall is now.

Thank you.

<mikedanacarter@yahoo.com>

I encourage you to include IEP students of all ages to come back on campus with the first group of students.

Dana Carter

Sent from my iPhone

<burkhardt.kristen@gmail.com>

To the Board and Dr. Clark,

Thank you for pressing to get our kids on campus this year. It has been over a full year since our kids have been on campus and I fear that the longer we wait, the harder it will be for all

parties to return. Now that we have a schedule and an MOU, I urge you to vote to approve the schedule.

Starting tomorrow, you need to work for the fall. I encourage you to plan for several scenarios. Let's not let the metrics or politics keep our kids out of school. Please begin to plan for several scenarios so that we can implement the plan as soon as possible, rather than dragging out a long negotiation process. Is there any reason we can't plan for the following four scenarios?

1. Full return to normal instruction with no distancing or mitigation
2. A robust virtual school for students to remain in DL if they chose
3. Create a schedule if the guidance changes to three feet distancing, with cohorts mixing
4. Create a schedule for six foot distancing with stable cohorts, assuming guidance remains unchanged

If the past year has shown us anything, it is that guidance changes, science is ever evolving, and our students cannot pay the price for lack of planning. Please begin to plan for the fall TODAY! Parents are continuing to pull their kids out of MDUSD in search of five full days of instruction. Please work to provide that so that we don't continue to lose students. This will affect our budget and funding for years to come!

Thank you,

Kristen Burkhardt

<brshaw@csumb.edu>

I'm so great full for all of the hard work and dedication that the district and our labor partners have put in to get us to a return to campus. As a teacher in the district and as parent parent as well, I am in awe of all of the hard work all district employees have done daily to support our students and fellow employees.

Special thank you to Dr. Clark and Ms. Samantha Allen in getting our high school athletic programs covid testing launched this week. There are so many moving parts that many of us don't see, even those of us in the district, I am grateful and humbled by the dedication of so many.

Thank you to Ygnacio Valley's athletic director, Mark Tran, for his leadership this most difficult of years. He has led with integrity and with a relentless work ethic for our student athletes.

Lastly, thank you to our site admin team, Mr. Huckaby, Ms. Plowman, and Ms. Smothers for their tireless efforts in setting up a safe return to campus for our community.

<monica.black1217@gmail.com>

Please approve this MOU take the first steps to get our kids back on campus. While it's not ideal and nearly impossible for working families, kids need to see a classroom at some point this school year. Please continue to follow county and state guidelines, and amend the MOU to include an allowance for smaller social distance guidelines as the state and county approve. Please continue to work towards a full 5 day a week in person return. Your hard work is appreciated!

<laurakescobar@gmail.com>

Big thank you to everyone who helped coordinate efforts to reach this agreement for hybrid learning. I think we really can thank the whole group for finally working together and with urgency to better serve our students. We look forward to our first grader attending the hybrid in-person afternoons.

In order to continue serving our students in the healthiest ways possible, I support that the trustees continue to advocate for a full time Fall model now. I do not want to seem ungrateful in the least, but given how long it has taken to arrive at this point, waiting to prepare plans for Fall could be catastrophic for our district. If we wait to secure a MOU for Fall, I think we still run the risk of losing many families who have pre-enrolled in private schools or are creating home-school pods. I'm afraid that our districts' intent to re-enroll forms will not reflect these plans. The only assurance we can have is a MOU for Fall that offers a full time schedule.

I am confident that we will continue to receive guidance from the state and county on this and I also believe that we have a lot of guidance necessary to start laying out plans and addressing obstacles. This is a marathon and I am committed to seeing this through.

Sincerely,

Laura Steele

<jenniferavogler@gmail.com>

Thank you for all of your efforts to get our schools reopened for hybrid learning this month!

I have 3rd and 5th graders who have tried their best and done well with distance learning to the best of their abilities for the last year but they NEED to be back in school. Their interest in school and learning is waning. They want to see their classmates and especially their beloved teachers face to face. They need to remember that there is so much more to learning and life than what they see behind a screen.

Science supports that this is the time to reopen – please vote for our schools to reopen in March and cement the plan for a FULL time return to school in the fall. The plan or plans, if needed, for fall must be created now and cannot wait. We cannot afford to lose any more families to private schools due to a failure to reopen 5 days a week full time learning. Our students as well as the families in this district, are watching, waiting, and counting on you to do the right thing for our students – now is the time to show them that you can be trusted to support them in their educational endeavors.

<thelisagarcia@gmail.com>

To Whom it May Concern,

Is there any plan to switch the meal services back to a ready to eat meal instead of giving out frozen food? With the hour time frame between distance learning & in person support, I don't believe kids will have enough time to pick up food, bring the food home, cook the food, eat the food & then get to school. If the food was served ready to eat, then kids should have enough time to still eat each day.

Thank you,

Mrs Garcia

<2kellyrandall@gmail.com>

Hello Board Members and Dr. Clark,

While I am happy that a possible MOU has been reached, I am disappointed in many aspects of this plan.

I am a preschool teacher and like MANY parents out there getting our children to school in the middle of the day in horrendous. I am upset to see that there was no mention of meeting again in a month for both parties to discuss changing the schedule to allow for two full hybrid days.

The verbiage in the MOU states 6 feet. Will this have to be updated in negotiations when the CDC or health department makes changes to this guidance?

How do you plan to make sure ALL children go back full time in the fall?

I understand this is a starting point but please know I am not happy about this proposed plan.

I also want to make note that if CCC goes back into the Purple tier we should NOT close again.

Does this union not want to work? Because that's what it seems like to me.

Get our kids back to school NOW!

Kelly Randall

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

<dr.ropelato@gmail.com>

Yesterday. That was the day that I formally accepted our offer to one of three private schools to which we were accepted. I sent in my \$400 registration fee per child and \$300 new family registration fee. I feel lighter both monetarily and emotionally! I know these people will support my children. It is sad that I cannot say that about our district. While realizing that we are fortunate to have been able to make this decision for our children, I realize there are thousands of families that cannot afford this opportunity and are relying on the district to do the right thing.

Please do the right thing now and for the Fall. In the absence of an agreement with the ever moving goal posts of the union, please vote to return to work.

Yes, I realize that Dr. Clark has been advocating to open for some time. I also realize that a few board members finally saw the light (of dollars signs from the carrot the state offered, perhaps???). However, there is no more trust in this system. There are 2 board members blatantly advocating for the union due to the union's campaign donations. This is sick and morally wrong. I, along with many others, will be leaving this district due to these things which have come to light. I hope this mass exodus makes the union and district change in the ensuing years, but I have my doubts.

What you can do now, though, is to vote for the people you represent. We are NOT a small group of vocal parents. We represent the MAJORITY of parents and we want our kids back in school where they belong. It is dismissive and a lie to call us a small subset of parents. Most people do not speak up. You can see from your survey results that half of folks chose to go back, even with the dismally inadequate schedule that was presented, and further made worse by the union. You know that if you surveyed for a REAL hybrid or full time option that many more would choose yes. We represent THAT majority of parents in the district. And it is certainly a majority. Do right by these folks. Support a better plan for the Fall. Let's get back on track for this year starting NOW. I encourage you to approve this plan, but will also note that I am so angry the union added that we can still shut down with moving tiers, that there will be 6 feet of distance and the dates having been moved back. None of these things follows actual science and they need to be repeatedly called out on this hogwash.

Please start working on a successful return for Fall in getting the most kids back to physical school as possible. I can guarantee the MAJORITY of parents want their kids back at school and will accept nothing less than a well thought out plan to maximize in person learning. We parents are vocal and involved. We want what is best for our children and will not stop now.

Best,

Melanie Ropelato

<jlaa1994@gmail.com>

I want to thank Dr. Clark for putting the students first and submitting his timeline for a student return for hybrid schedule this school year to the Board.

I also want to thank President Khaund , Vice President Mason and Trustee Mayo for voting YES to Dr. Clark's timeline for the hybrid schedule. I applaud you all for remembering the responsibility you hold to put students first and that you are in your role because of your constituents. We will remember this poignant moment.

I am grateful that an agreement between the district and MDEA was FINALLY reached for a hybrid schedule. Albeit the hybrid schedule is not prefect and the MOU has some sticking points that I don't like (others have already commented on the sticking points).

I do ask that the Board APPROVE this MOU, so that as district we can move forward.

However, just know that this hybrid will suffice for now. Come the Fall , I except full time, in person school for 5 days! Nothing less will be acceptable! So I expect that the Board will begin working on this immediately and to see this as an agenda item at every single meeting going forward.

An analogy another parent used and I will repeat, "We are dying in a desert. They are offering us a glass of water. Let's hydrate, get stronger and come back for more"!

Sincerely,

Lisa Guarnaccia

8th grader @ Foothill Middle School

10th grader @ Northgate High School

<amy.bartolotta@gmail.com>

Please, please, please don't leave my kids behind every other school district by not allowing for a move towards a real and true hybrid plan for THIS 20/21 school year.

The amendment needs to state that moving towards a full day hybrid will be on the weekly agenda and a plan for that move will be established by April 23, 2021.

If a school district like SF can have full day hybrid as their start plan we can at minimum shoot to end our year with May or before being full day hybrid- accessible to all students.

Amy Bartolotta

<annamo@gmail.com>

Dear MDUSD Board,

I was glad to see the MOU between the district and the union come out this morning. Despite it's many imperfections I hope that you will vote to approve the plan. I am grateful that my kids will see the inside of a classroom this year. I hope this signals a new phase in the relationship between MDEA and MDUSD and that we can all work together for a full time, 5 day a week return in the fall.

Many thanks,

Anna Morozovsky

MDUSD Parent

Sent from my iPhone

<sprecherc@mdusd.org>

Dear MDUSD Governing Board,

CST, along with DMA and every other bargaining unit besides MDEA, have been forced to be on site working for a year now. While MDEA was able to be safe at home, we were not. Because the need was there, those of us on-site have developed processes, set up models, cleaned, disinfected, held picture days, handed out textbooks, chromebooks, and supplemental materials. We have met with families and students, we have answered phones and signed in each day. We have tracked and assessed and reported and ordered supplies and given support and attended meetings. We have updated and updated and updated our families through all the variances of what distance learning has foisted upon our sites. We have been without any kind of support or anyone touring our sites to be sure WE are safe. We have begged for MERV-13 filters and the proper PPE that the Superintendent said we had but we did not. It has been continually advertised that sites are ready to open while we toil to be able to get prepared with little direction, some misdirection, and no scaffolding for our jobs during a pandemic. I'm curious what multiple measures were used to make the decision to continue to allow MDEA members to choose to stay home? At what point do other bargaining units or even your constituents matter? I am an employee, a parent in this district and a voter, some of you who I have supported over the years and I cannot understand how we've come to this. At what point do you, if this SIXTY ONE PAGE MOU is approved, not see the additional burden this places on all sites and, on the back end, doesn't do anything to address the learning loss you say you care so deeply about that is affecting our students.

Our site at Pleasant Hill Middle has a large SpEd population (20-30%) with mental health collaborative, Adult Ed, and Prospect/Horizons ON OUR SITE. That makes our Principal the site admin to more than a normal single-focused site and the office manager in a role unlike other office managers. When you chose to not have teachers return to teach in EMPTY classrooms when distance learning began, you added more of a burden to an already stretched thin staff. On top of our normal job, we deal with members in other units who want to stay home because teachers can, the hundreds of emails going around because teachers aren't here to have in-person discussions, the constant "can you please take care of this, Office Staff, since I'm not on site", in addition to all the social/emotional/mental issues that are rampant with middle school age children now exacerbated by being stuck at home. Please try to paint the picture in your mind of what that is like as we are woefully understaffed since you slashed our budgets last year.

Those budget cuts led to an exodus of top notch employees. In the same vein, the staff inequities based on this MOU will drive a wedge among colleagues. I hope you've considered the likelihood of another round of losing good people, while you coddle MDEA for reasons I will never understand. To end, the travesty of this MOU is devastating to all, but students will be the ones who suffer the most. You have built the ease of the teachers on the backs of the families who voted you in, support our schools and try to keep their precious children from the dangers of isolation. Please do not approve this MOU that shines a glaring light on the inequities among bargaining units.

Carol Sprecher
Sr. School Office Manager
Pleasant Hill Middle School

<terronestorresc@mdusd.org>

Well put Carol. Thank you.

<tamar.gonsalves@gmail.com>

I wanted to start by saying I'm really excited about the district and union reaching an agreement. But now I want to encourage those who can to make this hybrid schedule make sense. Honestly we said we'd do a hybrid but my kids don't need something equivalent of a study hall. I want my 5th grader to be able to on campus even if a couple/few days a week for real instruction before she moves onto middle school. We are in the red tier and districts all around us have hybrid schedules that include real in person learning.

Also, if for some odd reason we return to purple I think the concession to return full time distance learning is bogus. This is not something required by the state and ridiculous. I'm praying there is no return to purple due to inoculations and other factors but do not steal in person education away from our kids again. The last year of their life has been ripped away from them. To do it again would be horrid.

On that subject. Fall needs to be full time in person, 5 days a week. There should be no excuse, none. I encourage you to start working on that now since it seems to take a very long time to get things done and agreed to. I don't want to have to put my 6th grader in a POD and homeschool my 4th grader next year but I will if needed.

Thank you!

Tamar Gonsalves

<elizabeth.litten@ukg.com>

The fact that MDUSD doesn't have a plan to return our kids to school for some kind of in-person learning is unacceptable.

The fact that MDUSD hasn't started planning for next year is deplorable.

Surrounding districts administration have been working on return to in-person learning plans since Oct of last year so that when things opened up and it became safe; they could bring kids back to school.

In turn, they already have student on campus including:

Private schools are back to hybrid or in-person.

SRVUSD has kids already onsite full time 2 days a week and 3 days of zoom/DL.

Walnut Creek is already back 4 days 8-11a for elementary and 2 full days middle w/2 days DL and Wednesday touch base class like we do now.

SF & Oakland school union and district has even agreed to an in-person back to school plan and full time next year and they are just as diverse and enormous as MDUSD.

Parents and the community do not support this school district because you continuously prove to us that you do not have our kids or teachers best interest in mind.

It's time to start doing your jobs and working on a solid, practical, science based plan to get our kids and teachers back FULL TIME.

The good news for MDUSD is that your complete incompetence as allowed you to let ALL, literally ALL, the work to be done for you by all our surrounding school districts.

Take what they've done and put together a plan; shoot – JUST COPY WHAT THEY ARE DOING and get it done.

Sincerely, Liz Litten

<phyllis@mansellfamily.ca>

Hello

I have one child in a MDUSD middle school. Without a firm commitment for in person learning (not small study groups) in the next few days I will be pulling him from this mess and enrolling

him in a private school as the signing deadline is looming. I know we are not the only family strongly considering this jump.

I am writing to implore you vote for a commitment of full in person learning for the 21/22 school year. It has been A YEAR of distance learning. From a quick read of the MOU agreement released today it appears that it will all have to be negotiated yet again as that time approaches. The Board and MDEA have had A YEAR to figure this out and this is what they have come up with??? I am extremely frustrated at the lack of planning, teamwork and selfishness from these two organizations.

There have been several districts that have returned to school successfully nationally and internationally. The big legal win for Parent Association (<https://www.parentassociation.org/legal-library>) should be the precedent to move forward.

Again, commitment dates to several private schools are looming. I suggest you stand up and state that the teachers need to commit to our students and community by in person schooling for those who choose it!

<jacksondj@mdusd.org>

Good morning, afternoon, evening or night,

Hello. My name is Devin Jackson and I am a 6th grade science teacher at Foothill Middle School.

Once MDUSD decides to phase in the Hybrid model, I encourage the school board, principals and teachers to utilize Outdoor Classrooms at school sites. Outdoor education has been shown to improve academic and health outcomes, decrease stress and deepen positive connections between children. MDUSD can provide in-person instruction and achieve social distancing by using outdoor spaces at school sites.

Currently, we have a diverse working group made up of principals, teachers, PFC and PTA members and parents/guardians from eight MDUSD schools, who are interested in helping their own school and other schools in our district bring classroom learning outside for better air circulation and better health and safety for students, teachers, administrators and staff.

We welcome anyone passionate about outdoor learning to our working group, as we will be collectively brainstorming, problem solving and sharing resources across school sites. Currently, we are 43 members strong and we welcome passionate volunteers!

The following schools have applied for the outdoor learning site assessment:

Wren Avenue Elementary	Mt. Diablo Unified School District	Concord	CA
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Bancroft	Mt. Diablo Unified School District	Walnut Creek	CA
Rio Vista Elementary	Mt. Diablo Unified School District	Bay Point	CA
Riverview Middle	Mt. Diablo Unified School District	Bay Point	CA
Sequoia Elementary	Mt. Diablo Unified School District	Pleasant Hill	CA
El Monte	Mt. Diablo Unified School District	Concord	CA
Sun Terrace Elementary	Mt. Diablo Unified School District	Concord	CA
Valle Verde Elementary	Mt. Diablo Unified School District	Walnut Creek	CA
Foothill Middle School	Mt. Diablo Unified School District	Walnut Creek	CA
Gregory Gardens	Mt. Diablo Unified School District	Pleasant hill	CA
Mt. Diablo Elementary	Mt. Diablo Unified School District	Clayton	CA
Highlands Elementary	Mt. Diablo Unified School District	CONCORD	CA
Pleasant Hill Elementary School	Mt Diablo Unified School District	Pleasant Hill	CA
Diablo View Middle School	Mt Diablo Unified School District	Clayton	CA

Once a date is set for the initial site assessments, we were encouraged to have the Facilities Director accompany the design volunteers on the campus walk through.

The major questions participants in the diverse working group had were:

- What shade options schools are using?
- Solutions for seating (and work spaces/tables)
- Campus safety while students are outside and safety plan compliance
- ADA compliance
- Not infringing on PE spaces (this is accounted for in the free site assessments)

Thank you again for permitting me to speak at the public comment this afternoon.
All of the best to you and your family, friends and loved ones.

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If you have questions, comments or concerns, please let me know.

Setting Up An Appointment (Click Below):
<https://fmsjacksondjscience.youcanbook.me>

Sincerely,

Mr. Jackson {Science Rocks & So Do You!}
6th Grade Earth, Life, & Physical Science/Engineering Teacher
Environmental Sustainability Coordinator
Education Consultant
Foothill Middle School
Mt. Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD)
Walnut Creek, CA

<outlook_1A0575DC7FDBE07A@outlook.com>

Hi,

Thank you for working hard in the past year and thank you in advance for the coming school year. My family and I are writing to ask for a full-time and in-person school this Fall and beyond as one of the options along with DL setting option.

Schools are not sports, like after school programs, I believe it's a core part of children's lives.

My family does not have an option to go to private schools due to our RELIGION, not due to our financial status. Only other option will be moving to another school district. Please hear and consider "regular families' voices".

Thank you.

Best regards

YT
