

From: "Allman, Michael" <michael.allman@sduhsd.net>

Date: December 10, 2020 at 10:41:11 PM PST

Subject: Re: Letter of Concern for your choices

Hi, thank you for your comments.

See my comments embedded below.

Mike

Hello San Dieguito Union High School Board Members,

I'm writing to all of you out of concern for the choices you may be making on behalf of teachers, school site administrators, and students.

Our duty rests to parents and students first.

I'm baffled as to what the reason and motives are for re-opening schools, the reasoning that it's a good, safe decision for students and staff.

It's not baffling. The children are better off in a full-reopening, and those benefits far outweigh any costs to reopening.

There is more than enough reports and evidence that Covid-19 is thriving and wreaking havoc on communities and hospitals all around the entire country.

We are in a temporary spike, but where will we be on January 4? We just don't know. What if we are on a downward trend? Don't forget, vaccines are around the corner. Plus, we still have a very low rate of infection in North County.

The schools that have tried to re-open locally have failed due to the easy spread of the virus within schools, causing hundreds of students and staff to quarantine, causing mass disruption to learning and safety.

That is complete misinformation.

The virus does not easily spread through schools. The fact that you say that tells me that you really have done no research at all. It doesn't spread through schools much at all! AT ALL through schools! You missed that by 180-degrees!

I assume you are talking about Vista. They panicked over a couple of cases that did NOT spread through school. It was completely unnecessary to close the school.

This [disruption] would be hypocritical for the board members not to acknowledge, since that seems to be a point of concern - that students experience the best and safest learning environment. Also, distance learning is working.

Dude, I have no idea where you get this from, and the fact that you think this is true makes me question if we want you teaching our children.

What has happened to student grades in distance learning? What was the percentage of "F" grades before and during distance learning?

What is the range of mental health scores for the kids and how are they doing in distance learning?

Here is one of many studies that show the harm distance learning does to kids.

<https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-and-social-sector/our-insights/covid-19-and-student-learning-in-the-united-states-the-hurt-could-last-a-lifetime>

**Note source – McKinsey is a business consulting firm previously embroiled in the Enron scandal and the 2008 financial crisis.*

It may not be ideal or better than in person (I don't think any teacher would disagree that in person is best in general), but students are learning via virtual, they are engaged, and they will be fine. I am working very hard to make it worth their while.

Why can't the district wait until next fall, or until teachers and students can be vaccinated, and then even forego the hybrid model (which also is shown to be the poorest form of learning for all students)?

Because the cost of waiting far, far exceeds any expected benefits.

Why is their reason to believe that a teacher teaching in class and online (which basically means online for all from the classroom) with a mask on, one day a week or even twice a week for in class students, is beneficial at all? Where is the evidence?

It gets the kids back in school and improves their emotional health. This provides huge value. Any teacher who assumes on-line for all and doesn't engage the students in the classroom has given up.

One of my greatest concerns I have is the non-existence of a plan for relief if I have to quarantine.

You should never have to quarantine (due to school exposure). In order to be forced to quarantine you will need to be in "close contact" with someone who tests positive. "Close Contact" means within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more on any given day. We can avoid that, quite simply - don't get within 6 feet of ANYONE for more than 15 minutes. That will be our policy. YOU will be responsible for not letting yourself be quarantined!

The federal covid aid is set to expire on December 31st with no hopes of it continuing. I have no sick leave (I had to take paternity leave this fall because my wife became suicidal due to postpartum depression and anxiety after delivering our son in the spring, so I had to be home to take care of my boys). If I have to quarantine, I'm out of any income for our family (I am the sole provider). How come there is no plan in place for relief?

You will have to talk with your Congressman about why the Federal relief expires on December 31.

Help me understand how sick leave works, I'm new to the job. Can sick leave days be used for anything, or do you have to be sick? Can you use them for paternity leave? Continuing education? Vacation? I just don't know how this works.

Please realize that you make decisions for people that you do not interact with, that you do not fully know, that you don't share their role or are on the front line in the classroom with. Your choices could be the cause of death of me, staff, and students.

Jesus, did you just say that? Wow. Now there is no doubt, you should NOT be teaching our kids. Period.

Thank you for reading and I hope you can consider the actual best, safest, and simplest solution for everyone involved - keep distance learning through this school year.