

**BLOSSOM VALLEY TOWN HALL MEETING (May 15, 2020)**



My name is XXXXXXXX, and my kids attend Blossom Valley Elementary. I was on the zoom call last night and I just wanted to take a moment to reach out to you because I've been thinking about that call since it ended. I am absolutely appalled by the level of selfishness and lacj

school year is prioritizing in person classes for grades k-3 or 4, as I feel that these are the grades that really need to be taught in a physical environment. This can also work to alleviate childcare issues for parents who work and have kids in these grades. 5th grade and up can come in on a rotating schedule - maybe 2 days a week, and do the rest of their work in a virtual environment. I do think kids should be wearing masks, and those parents who have children with medical issues that prevent them from wearing a mask will need to get a doctor's note. I don't understand the vehemence against wearing masks, they are measure of protection.

Anyway, these are just a few of my thoughts. I know your job is very challenging given the current environment and I appreciate your diligence and willingness to engage with parents. Thank you for

you so much for taking the time to listen to all of the parents. Hopefully they were not an unbridled mob last night.

Thanks for listening to all of them, and to me. Thank you for everything you are doing to keep our kids safe and educated!

Tamara,

I trust you and your family are well! I am thankful you are sheltering in place. Like myself, I know that is hard to do with us "social beings"!

Thank you for meeting up with the BV crew! You were successful in calming the ready to spin out of control group of concerned community members. I think everyone just feels better if they are heard. Personally, distance learning has gone pretty well. Some of the children dialed right in. Like any classroom situation, others are hard to motivate. Because we use a tech format in our classrooms that was really not a problem at all.

I wanted to share something at the end of the meeting, yet my video went out for some reason.

Joseph was listening in on our meeting and had an idea he wanted to suggest, but did not feel it was his place. So here it goes..... His idea is literally taking some of the learning outside of the box. (The classroom) Regardless of when children attend, M,W/T,TH or half day, he felt classrooms of children could have "twin teachers". The two teachers would rotate to two different classrooms and the children would stay in place. During another rotation time students could rotate through activities in the lunch area, MPR, or playground for play, or workshops on art, music, science, or even World of Work. (Available to all, no sign ups)Think of it as academic classrooms and enrichment environments. Oh there is more... Students could do academics on MW/TTH and come every other Friday for one or two enrichment opportunities in the classrooms without walls. Well, that would take some planning I explained, but I promised I would share it.

I am so happy to hear that your daughter will be in Santa Cruz! Second child in that area right? What a wonderful opportunity and a proud moment to be accepted! I feel badly she missed out on Prom, Graduation, and the wonderful Granite Sr. activities! I know she will make it up by doing wonderful things ahead. Please give her a shout out of congrats from me!

Also, give Aubreyella a hug from me.

Thanks again for your service to our community.

Our main objective today is for our parents to be heard. And we know that is why you are here. We appreciate you and the district for the time to express our thoughts. We would appreciate it if you could read this document, and along the way, give any answers you may have to the questions being asked.

We have surveyed our community and even had a parents zoom meeting with 80 participants. Our parents are passionate, dedicated, and want to have their voice heard. We want to share with you our collective findings from all of our data.

We would like to thank you for taking the time to hear from our community. As our elected representative, we would like to ask for your help by reading our questions, thoughts, and concerns about distance learning and the future of our school at the next board meeting on May 26th. Is this the best way to have all of our voices heard? Would you be willing to do that for us? Could we make a google form and submit our thoughts as a school? Or does it have to be individual?

When we return in August, we are open to following the safety guidelines given to us by the CDC. We have our students' safety as our first priority. However, we would, when given the green light to return to normal with slight modifications like handwashing and extra cleaning, expect to return to normal. That any changes that are being made are temporary and not the permanent solution. For any changes that are being made we would like a projected end date, or in "phase" set up. What we are willing to do with a return to normalcy in sight, is very different from our willingness to change for good.

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occupy time and allowed parents to work from home with premade activities. But they still wouldn't want distance learning as an ideal situation.

Can the district commit to an August- December model, with a reevaluation done towards the end to see if they continue with the model for the Spring or tweak it to meet revised restrictions set by the CDC & the needs of the student? Almost all of our parents responded that they would not allow their kids to go to an offsite location for school.

How will students be tested and evaluated for special education? Early intervention is crucial. How are special education red flags being noticed while distance learning?

What is the district's plan for food consumption once school resumes? Many kids at our school do not like the school lunch and will not eat it.

When the guidelines are given from the CDC, will students with IEP be exempt from those guidelines? For example: Students with sensory issues and masks; Students with dietary issues - will they be allowed to bring their own food; Students who have a hard time not being physical (hugs, ect,) - will they be breaking the rules? Will flexibility be given? Or will the students be forced to distance learn? What about students that have one- on- one support? How will that work?

At Chase for the emergency essential workers childcare, parents are only allowed to drop off and not walk their children to class. Many parents, both with special needs children and gen ed, have been concerned about their child's needs. Some need to be escorted to class. And the drop off procedure is not in their child's best interest.

The recent article in Paper that CVUSD shared on their Facebook page yesterday, had many of us alarmed. The article says:

" David and his team heard similar stories from many parents. It became clear that they needed to change the fixed school system that parents have to adjust around. They are considering ways to design the system around the parents'



needs instead, where there can be a 6 am to 6 pm window for students to come in. David explained that they can retain components of what they are doing now (i.e. online, distance learning) when schools reopen, so that students and parents can continue to have a flexible schedule.



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milestones. It is seeing them hug their teachers, giving Mr. Hoeben a high-five. It is their proud walks to deliver something to the office. It is seeing them smile. It is friendship. It is witnessing lifelong bonds being formed. It is laughter and smiles. It is all the complex and simple things. It is where we belong. It is where we feel #you belong. It is how we know we are all in this together. It is where we live, work, play, and choose to raise our family. It is the joy of education and the community we need. It is Blossom Valley.