

Agenda item 8.1 – Superintendent Chief Learning Officer - District Update for the Board

1) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 8:33 AM

Hi there,

Thank you for all you are doing to ensure our students get the best education they can, given the circumstances! We appreciate it.

My question is regarding high school sports. If no decision is made regarding NIAA sports, prior to January 25, 2021, and a student chooses cohort C, can they change to cohort A or B if their sport begins? The same question applies to a student needing 3 graded classes to participate in sports. If they only have two classes and their sport begins, will they be able to add a class or can this requirement be waived, especially for Seniors?

Thanks
Marcy Thompson

2) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 8:46 AM

We are parents of a TTUSD 9th grader.

This comment also represents many, many, many Tahoe friends who share our feelings and attend TTUSD.

I am a teacher at a local Tahoe school that is currently open.
Please open TTUSD schools in cohorts in January!!! I can not stress enough the importance for our TTUSD students to be back in school learning and not on Zoom any longer. Please open. TTUSD had met the criteria for opening in small groups and had done a great job with small groups at North Tahoe High School before closing in November.

Those that wish not to meet in person have the option to continue distance learning.

Thank you!

From - Gillian Tomasini and other friends in our local community.

"If you light a lamp for someone else, it will also brighten your own path." -Buddha

3) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 9:53 AM

I urge you not to consider reopening schools before March. We are in the worst and worsening stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am a healthcare professional. Our healthcare systems are overwhelmed. Any gatherings risk further case rises. School settings are not exempt, the Coronavirus does not differentiate. However, it does mutate, and emerging strains are more contagious. The worst is yet to come.

For the stability of education, to reduce further disease transmission, and to try to do everything as a community we can to not further negatively impact the strained healthcare system, please commit to a distance learning model until March. This will give a better timeframe to assess the pandemic trajectory, the impact of vaccine rollouts, and hopes that it will turn around from its current dire course. I urge you not to give in to the pandemic fatigue and cognitive dissonance that seeks to minimize the current reality. This is not the time to be reopening.

Thank you,
Nicole Howard

4) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 10:20 AM

At this challenging time, I urge the TTUSD Board of Education Trustees to continue with the distance learning model. Given the extension of the Regional Stay at Home Order and the post-holiday surge, I believe the January 19 and January 25 target dates are no longer in the best interest of our community.

Based on analysis of current data by a team of scientists, statisticians and epidemiologists, the Regional Stay at Home Order was extended four weeks, to the end of January. The extension is essential to managing hospital system capacity and the current post-holiday surge. I urge you to honor the order and not consider returning TTUSD schools to an in-person model until after the Regional Stay at Home order is lifted.

Data shows that children are often asymptomatic but are capable of unknowingly spreading virus. This phenomenon may have contributed to TTUSD having to return to distance learning after just a few weeks of hybrid in person learning last fall.

Please consider the model being implemented by the Cherry Creek School District (CCSD), near Denver, CO.* The December 15 CCSD letter to the community included the plan to open with in-person learning in January. The current surge led to a change of plan described in The Denver Post article noted below. The new plan includes getting both doses of vaccine administered to the CCSD teachers and staff by the end of February. This will allow the schools to safely open, with masks in March.

Covid-19 has been going on for a long time, we are all tired of it and the children need to experience in person learning. But this is not the time to let our guard down, it's time to double down, to keep one and all safe and healthy and begin in person learning when the time is right.

Sincerely,
Gudrun Dybdal

***See: Possibility of normal graduations gets boost as first Colorado educators get COVID-19 vaccine**

Cherry Creek School District nurses line up for the shot as superintendent aims to re-open classrooms by March

By **JOHN AGUILAR** | The Denver Post

PUBLISHED: January 1, 2021 at 5:10 p.m. | UPDATED: January 3, 2021 at 12:25 p.m.

5) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 10:21 AM

We would like to urge the TTUSD board to continue distance learning until our county is no longer in the Widespread tier of COVID-19 transmission, until the Stay-at-Home order is lifted for the Sacramento region of California, and until TTUSD staff can be fully vaccinated.

Our recent experiences scheduling a COVID-19 test show that in our locality, testing is NOT easy and fast. Scheduling and results for such tests have taken us at least 12 days from onset of symptoms; which is more than the 10-day quarantine recommended by many. Friends in the Bay Area have shared that their children's schools test ALL staff and students weekly. Without rapid and frequent testing, how can we have any hope of an accurate understanding of whether or not the virus is circulating in our schools or in our community?

In addition, vaccine roll-out is proceeding more slowly than expected. In the interest of keeping teachers and staff safe, and in the wake of this unprecedented surge of new cases and deaths in the state of California, we believe it would make more sense to wait to return students to in-person learning until TTUSD staff and teachers can be vaccinated.

Sincerely,
Wendy & Douglas DeVore
Parents of ACMS student

6) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 10:38 AM

Hello TTUSD Board Members,

I am the heartbroken mother of a senior boy and a junior girl that both want to play basketball for Truckee. Both also play golf and lost their previous golf seasons. Many kids have lost their sport seasons and I know this is hurting our youth as well as no in person learning. We have the opportunity to make a change right now for our high school sports.

Truckee High School is part of the 3A League within the NIAA. The NIAA has given the directive for basketball to start modified practices this week. We are part of this league, we need to start our practices. We have willing coaches and willing players that are ready to play. Nobody has to play or coach that is not comfortable or does not feel safe, everyone has a choice in this and everyone has to do what works for them and their family. If our league is playing we need to be given the chance to play for those that want to play. We cannot be lumped in with Greater Sacramento County or the State of CA, we are on the outskirts, we are rural. We are part of the NV league and should be able to play and compete with them. The NV Governor is to be making a decision on 1/15 about games moving forward, but as of now they are allowing modified practices. Their schools are not to start back in hybrid until 1/19. We are all in the relatively same position but we seem to have a state line of minimal miles inhibiting us. The NIAA has been in weekly meetings with the NV Governor's office, with parent and staff supporting to play. I am the voice asking for Truckee High School basketball to follow the NIAA directive and get started with conditioning and modified practices with the necessary safety protocols in place. Currently 30 states are allowing basketball to play with other states starting very soon. If Nevada plays we need to play, it is our league. Our kids want to play, our kids need to play. I am sure you have many articles on the importance of in person learning and sports and activities.

On a closing note, I know you all have worked tirelessly since last March with information constantly changing and not being able to keep up. I don't envy that one bit and greatly appreciate all your hard work. Thank you for the job you all do to make school a better place for our kids! I am truly looking forward to the day hopefully very soon when they will be back in school.

Erin Flynn

7) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 11:33 AM

As a working parent of a kindergarten, I think school's need to be reopened full time. The hybrid model only works to reduce the spread of COVID if every child is just going to their hybrid class, then being able to stay home for the rest of their remote learning. For me, and every other full time working parent, that is not the case.

Our children are going into their hybrid class, then going into a daycare setting the rest of the week. The daycare setting is full of kids from different school's, in different grades and different hybrid classes, then after being in their daycare setting going back to their hybrid. This dramatically increases contact with kids from all over the school district, which increases the spread of COVID, which is why I believe the hybrid model only lasted a few weeks last time.

I believe the way to make this work is children should be attending school with JUST their class full time. Even recess and lunch need to be limited to their class only.

Thank you for your time,
Rachael Brigham

8) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 11:42 AM

Dear TTUSD School Board:

I am writing to implore you to let the kids go back to school in person. Our kids have now been out of school for almost a full year, save a few weeks where they were back part time. This is damaging not only their academic education but also their social education and their mental wellbeing.

Kids need more than just academic education to make them well-rounded individuals. They get education from school, their home life as well as their extra-curricular activities. Currently the kids in our area are getting only the education from their home life. The online learning of subjects is not working for our students. Our students are falling farther and farther behind their peers in other areas of this state and other states. In the past we have heard the reason our district is not in person is because the rest of the county (Placer) is not learning in person. Well, this is not true anymore as Rocklin, Roseville and Granite Bay are all in person learning five days a week as of Monday, January 4, 2021. If you are concerned about the teachers union then how are those districts handling it? Learn from them, please.

If the fear is that our community infrastructure is not equipped to handle an outbreak because of school being in session then that ship sailed when we allowed all the tourists to inundate our area. For the last four months (except for a few weeks when the kids were back in person) we have been telling our kids within our district that the tourists are more important than they are. This district has a chance to stand up and set an example for our kids to let them know that they are the most important assets in our community and that they are the future of our community. If we do nothing and let the status quo continue you, as a Board, are telling our kids that they are not as important as the tourist's money. How sad for our kids. Our kids need to know that they are important and valued. This would not only set an example but would also help our kids' mental health by letting them know that they are important. Right now, almost every kid in our district is seeing that all of their freedoms have been taken away yet the people with the money are still coming up and doing whatever they want.

Sincerely,
Jeff & Karen Couwenhoven

9) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 11:47 AM

Dear school board members,

I'm reaching out tonight as a parent and as a coach. I know we are living through unbelievably trying times as a community and as a country. I could go on and on tonight about science, facts and statistics but I'll keep it close to my heart. I'm a parent of a seventeen year old boy who along with his peers are being torn apart with our school and sports lock down. As a Truckee High School coach I'm trained on how to identify at risk kids and athletes who might be suffering from depression or abuse. I never thought in our small tight knit community I would ever see a circumstance that would fall into anything resembling an at risk student or athlete until our lock down.

After months of isolation, incredibly challenging learning situations and next to no social interaction with peers, I have seen and heard many accounts of students and student athletes breaking and breaking down. We can't afford to lose our kids and parents' confidence in our academic and sports system.

Let's start off the new year with a small gesture of confidence in our community and our kids by opening schools. Opening schools will allow students to once again reintegrate into a healthy productive school and sports experience. Roughly 40 other states have schools and sports going currently according to Max preps, we can do this together safely

Please open our schools and our sports seasons, this will boost all our students' confidence, mental health and their academic experience.

Thank you for your time,

Coach Tony Carter
Truckee High School Basketball

10) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 12:08 PM

Happy New Year TTUSD BOD!

Why aren't teachers considered essential? Why aren't schools considered essential? Why isn't learning and the social, physical and emotional development of our children considered essential?

I have three students in this district at three different schools sites. While each of them is having a very different experience from the others, they are all experiencing the same depression, anxiety, frustration and confusion. My family is not an anomaly. We are the norm in this district and in many others across the country. Students worldwide are victims of suicide at higher rates than ever before, depression and anxiety are on the rise, even drug and alcohol use among teens has hit a record high. PLEASE DO NOT LET OUR STUDENTS BE THE NEXT STATISTICS ON THIS LIST!

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Standteiner

11) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 12:21 PM

It does not seem realistic to open the school during the height of Covid infections. We are currently under strict stay home orders and all though we are all anxious to get back to normal, these are uncertain times. I would encourage the district to keep distance learning in Place until the Covid infection rate has reduced significantly.

Thank you,
Mother of 2 boys at North Tahoe and North Tahoe High
Crystal Bauer

12) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 2:38 PM

My name is Ethan Flynn and I am a senior this year at Truckee High School. We are now a little under three weeks until the end of this semester, yet I can count on one hand and a couple of fingers how many days I have actually been inside a classroom. However, I can't even begin to count how many practices we have had, but hopefully we can have that opportunity soon. While I do understand why making school in person could cause lots of controversy, I believe that we should have the option to play sports and be in school.

I am writing on behalf of not only my basketball team at Truckee High but other teams that are in a similar situation, and we want to play! I know many athletes on my team, and many other teams that want nothing more than to have a basketball season even if it is modified. As a leader and captain, I do believe that I have everyone's best interest at heart, and now I have the opportunity to lead by example and push for a season. I have been the captain of the varsity team since my sophomore year, and started as a freshmen, and I want the opportunity to have one more go at it. While I will go on to play golf in college, I know that for the majority of seniors, this will be their last year of organized sports where everything is on the line and for those with more years left, they certainly want to play as much as they can. I know that all players would relish at this opportunity because we truly do want to play!

At Truckee High, we are also in a more difficult situation than most schools. While we are a school in California, we play in the Nevada 3A division and at this point, our opponent schools, are beginning to have open gyms and schedule tryouts. I believe it is only fair we have

the same opportunity to play, especially if the rest of our league has this chance because we want to play as well!

While I do know this poses a risk, nothing is being made mandatory. These players that want to be competing will be playing completely at their own risk, they know what they are getting themselves into, and they should take full responsibility for it. We can follow all covid guidelines leading up to play, and if any player is feeling slightly off, they will not play. I do believe that all players would be very conscientious about their decisions if they have the opportunity to be playing competitive basketball. I know I would because I want to play!

After the research I have done on covid, there have been a very, very small number of kids who have felt more than flu like symptoms, and aren't able to return after an appropriate quarantine. The very large majority of young kids and even middle aged people getting the virus are back in action after quarantining. As of this week, 30 states are playing basketball, and I am confused on why we can't play. My cousin has been playing basketball in Georgia for almost two months now and they have been going strong out there. I am not sure why if other states are able to play then why don't we have the same opportunity to play, especially if our league has allowed play to start as well? We want to play and we will do what it takes!

I hope I have been able to give you some insight into the minds of the players and how we feel about what is going on. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me, I would be happy to help lead the charge to having a season. I do have hope that we can have the opportunity because we want to play!

Thank you for your time,
Ethan Flynn

13) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 2:47 PM

Dear School Board,

As we enter a new year, we must address the negative effects our children are experiencing from the continued closure of our schools. It has been widely acknowledged that depression rates in children of all ages are skyrocketing during this pandemic. Social development is so important at all ages, and we can no longer deprive this entire generation of children of this vital part of their education.

There is no question that the teachers and administrators have risen to the challenge and given our children an excellent distance learning experience, given the difficult circumstances. Now we must focus on returning our children's education to some semblance of normalcy. The measures implemented for our brief re-opening in the fall were perfectly adequate, and there doesn't seem to be any reason to delay a re-opening with the hybrid model already in place. If

the problems that Superintendent Ghysels cited when our schools closed before the holidays are still an issue, an alternative would be to at least allow the elementary schools to go back to in-person learning. Other school districts have prioritized the elementary schools in this way, and the State of California initially allowed for this option with its elementary school waivers in the initial re-opening guidelines.

Please vote today to re-open our schools on January 19th. We don't know the long-term effects this isolation is having on our children. Let's not gamble with their futures.

Thank you for your consideration of the matter.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Sullivan
Concerned Mother of a Glenshire Elementary 2nd Grader

14) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 2:57 PM

Hello,

I am writing to the school board on a very important and relevant issue regarding the return to school. I know the district is working very hard to do what's right for the health of the community and prevent the spread of COVID 19. Not only should the health safety of teachers and students be a priority, but another extremely vital factor seems to be being over looked.....the mental health impacts of school closures. There are many factors that are considered with schools opening, more than the public and us parents are aware. One thing I am very aware of however as a parent is how school closures are affecting the mental health of our children. Personally this has shaken our family life and I want the board members to know how important it is to figure out a way to safely open and KEEP schools operating and kids in the classroom away from distance learning. After the abrupt closure after thanksgiving of TTUSD schools, my middle school child sulked sadly back into strict distance learning, and started to have worsening depression with thoughts of self-harm. Finally after a few weeks a mental health crisis occurred and evaluation at a behavioral health hospital was needed for active suicidal thoughts. My child identified this was linked to the stress of distance learning and how much he hates it, topped with other family life stressors related to COVID, to the point he felt ending his life would be better than what he was going through each day. Not seeing friends, being isolated, not being able to engage in learning and interact with people and teachers has taken its toll on our students and children. The school system is amazing and goes above and beyond in its support that it offers for families and mental health and we appreciate it greatly. Unfortunately the health system is broken and our community is lacking adequate mental health resources for children. This has been a disheartening realization as a mom who works as a nurse leader in the local health care system. I am begging you, as a very concerned parent and community member, to make the mental health of our students a priority equally as much as mitigating the spread of

the pandemic. Please get schools open as much as possible, sustaining our community and saving lives not only depends on protection from COVID, but equally the mental health of our students and families.

Sincerely,

Mom of 2

15) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 4:29 PM

Dear TTUSD board,

I have concerns about students returning to school in about a week. COVID cases are through the roof in the state, Los Angeles is sending patients to northern California hospitals because they are out of beds, and we are still in lockdown and are not to be gathering in groups. So, why would we bring people from so many different neighborhoods and households together? Doesn't this put the greater community at risk? Yes, distance learning/teaching is not optimal, but these are very unusual times and we should not potentially be making the situation worse for our community. Until the case numbers subside and a substantial number of community members are vaccinated, we should stay in the distance learning model.

Thank you for all the hard work you are doing and I respect the effort you put into the tough decisions you have to make.

Sincerely,
Ingrid Bourke

16) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 4:41 PM

Please open our schools. My son is badly in need of interaction, time outside the home, time off the screen, and time to learn that school is fun. He has now been in distance learning longer than he has ever attended in-person school and he is not learning that school is a fun place to go where you learn cool things. He needs to be back in school. My husband and I both work full time and we cannot keep going like this. But mostly, I am worried my son's love of learning is being compromised by endless distance learning. That will stay with him forever. He is not challenged by the distance learning. He is not learning social skills. He is not learning how to fend for himself in a classroom. He is not learning how to move from one thing to another independently. He is not learning how to be part of a community. Please open our schools.

KIRSTIN GUINN

17) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 5:03 PM

Thank you for keeping our children safe!

Heather

18) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 5:15 PM

Good evening. We have four kids in the district. Two are doing well with distance learning and two are not. My public plea is that we return to the Hybrid school schedule now. Overall, I believe we should be in school five days a week like many other districts, but since that is not even being considered at TTUSD, we should be at a minimum going to Hybrid. There is an option in place of Cohort C for anyone who is not comfortable with in person learning. As we watch thousands of schools across the country in full school, playing complete sports seasons and having extracurricular activities, it has created a deep frustration with many parents and students wondering why we are being held back. Our children should be allowed these options, and as parents, then we decide what we are ok with and what we are not. Please strongly consider giving us the options and going back to the classroom.

Thank you,
Jaime Legare

19) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 5:25 PM

I have so many concerns about my children's social-emotional development right now. I want them back in school. I want some sense of normalcy. However, now is not the time. As of 5:20 PM on 1/6, Tahoe Forest ICU is at 88% capacity and Carson Tahoe is at 95%. This is not the time to put additional stress on the healthcare system, be it from COVID or a fall on the playground. We all have to do our part for a little longer and stay at home. No one is falling behind: we are simply learning different lessons. Thank you for your time.

Alli Berry, parent of a 4th grader (KBE) and 6th grader (NTS)

20) Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 5:30 PM

Dear TTUSD board members and TTUSD employees and staff

I am writing to you in hopes that you not only consider but move forward with extra-curricular activities and sports for our students.

Not only do our kids need to be back in school in some fashion (hybrid or full time) they need to be engaged in youthful activities that better themselves overall.

Unfortunately, since the State of CA has left this up to the individual school districts and counties, I feel our district has taken the easy way out throughout this COVID crisis and chosen to not deal with the hard decisions and questions and really fight for our kids and students. Our students overall well-being has suffered, their education has suffered and their motivation to strive and do well has been minimized.

As the parent of three kids in our district I have seen and heard from them and their peers on how disappointing and how much of a “farse” this whole distance learning really is. And this is coming from the kids/ students. Not parents, teachers, staff, etc. The students are telling me that that they are not learning through these methods nor are they really engaged. As a parent that’s a tremendous disappointment because we as parents all want what’s best for our kids and we’ll all doing anything for them. I am asking for you to work harder than you already are now and this is your opportunity to turn the page and “fight” for our students and to re-gain what they once had. This has been tough times on everyone, but we can make a difference, you can make a difference. Put our kids/ students first and don’t give in to the “fear factor” of what if. Our kids/ students need you more than ever. You can do this! We can do this! When there is a will there is a way. I think we have forgotten this during this all of this.

Thank you for listening. Best-

Mark Tanner

Agenda item 14.1 – Annual and Five-Year Accounting of Developer Fees for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year

1) Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 10:58 AM

January 5, 2021

The Honorable Kim Szczurek
The Honorable Dianna Driller
The Honorable Cris Hennessey
The Honorable Gaylan Larson
The Honorable Kirsten Livak
Tahoe Truckee Unified School District Board of Education
11603 Donner Pass Road
Truckee, CA 96161

President Szczurek and Members of the Board:

Happy New Year! Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the annual and five year accounting of Developer Fees for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Todd Rivera sent me the report with plenty of time to review. Todd's courtesy and professionalism is appreciated very much! The report is simple to understand and straightforward. CATT has no issues or concerns with the report as presented. Thank you.

Pat Davison

Truckee North Tahoe Government Affairs Manager

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