

PUBLIC COMMENTS
March 3, 2021 Board Meeting

8.1 Superintendent Chief Learning Officer - District Update for the Board

1) Wed, Mar 3, 2021 at 10:54 AM
Liz Bowling

Hello -- last week I submitted comments to be read at both the Feb. 24 and Mar. 3 TTUSD Board Meeting, please pull those comments for this meeting and instead use the following:

Good evening, I am submitting a public comment to the TTUSD Board of Directors as a parent and community member. **I want to extend my gratitude for TTUSD teaching staff, your board, and all of the District staff who continue to work tirelessly to prioritize students and identify actionable ways to return to in-person instruction five days per week.**

A wide range of research indicates that students across time zones, age groups, and socioeconomic lines are hitting a breaking point that developmental psychologists are calling the "pandemic wall." In addition to mental health impacts, many studies are showing that the infection and transmission rates among kids are significantly lower than adults. There is only so much we can do and facilitate at home as working parents and there are many layers of benefits that only in-person school provides. The return to a more regular school schedule will only increase the wellbeing and academic progress of our students. This signifies the strength of our teaching staff and district as a whole.

Thank you for opening in the hybrid model and for implementing a range of infrastructure and safety protocols in schools to keep them open. Assigning a task force to assist with this next phase is a wonderful next step and again, we are grateful for all of your efforts.

Liz Bowling
Parent of two TTUSD students (Kindergarten & 4th Grade)

2) Wed, Mar 3, 2021 at 2:29 PM
Aidan Concannon

Attention Board of Education and Superintendent Ghysels,

Hi, my name is Aidan Concannon, and this is a kid's perspective on distance learning. My parents and I watch the board meeting every time it is on, and whenever you get to the public comments, we hear things like "get the kids in school," or "when are you opening," then at the end, they say, "good job for keeping the kids safe," or "thanks for all you have done." But I think you can do better.

My experience during online learning has not been beneficial for the following reasons:

- 1) Every time we do a group assignment, no one does anything or isn't paying attention, and it STINKS.

- 2) During lessons, kids ask, “how do we do that,” or “how do we solve this problem,” or “what do we do,” even though the teacher explained it. That makes me wonder if kids are paying attention. But then it could be that some of those kids don’t understand. Then the teacher has to explain it all over again.
- 3) Most schools are open around the country since the beginning of the school year, they are probably wearing masks, but they are back to normal. And it is private schools, elementary schools, and middle schools. Which should bring up the question, “If they can do it, why can’t we?” I know we will probably have to keep some of the requirements, but that’s ok.
- 4) When we have been online for most of the year, parents write the board, and I always hear, “My kid academically is not doing well,” or “ My kid does not understand the content that is being taught.”

I say this because it sums up reason 1 and 2. Kids do not pay attention or don’t turn their homework in, and I know most kids do pay attention because they like school.

Kids are not doing well in distance learning because they do not have that in-person interaction with their teacher, who can help them.

It’s also hard for the teacher to know if the kids need help because no one has their camera on. And if I didn’t have parents as I do right now, I would be one of those kids. I am trying to say that kids should go to school so their teachers can help the kids. Otherwise, many kids can’t get the resources at home because maybe their parents are working or are busy.

But most of all, if you are truly, “for the kids,” then do what is needed for this community and the kids, so their parents do not have to worry about their kids falling behind. Open the schools!

Sincerely, Aidan Concannon, THS
