

Name:	Please note the agenda item number and topic:	Would you like to address the Board through live public-comment? If so, please check the "Live Comment" choice below. If you prefer to address the Board through written public-comment, please chec...	Please add your comment here:
Heather Fay	2: Public Comment: Agenda and non-Agenda Items	Written Comment	<p>As a parent to a rising fifth grader and a public health practitioner, I am requesting a detailed and timely overview of all mitigation measures that are currently being implemented or that are being added to the mitigation measures that the district is currently using. Given the increase in case counts in San Diego County and our current increasing case rate and over 8% test positivity rate, it isn't enough to simply continue with last year's mitigation standards. I am very happy to see the CA state requirement (released today) that requires vaccination of educators and support staff, but parents in the district need to understand what leadership is doing to take the new variables into account. Delta is 200% more transmissible than the previous variants, and data shows us that the majority of kids have yet to be exposed to COVID-19. My child's elementary school had a strict mask policy and I expect that to continue, but we now need to consider what *quality* of mask the children are wearing and seriously consider providing more protective kn95 masks to our students, educators, and staff. Data is also showing us that kids spread SARS-CoV-2 as efficiently as adults, and our under 12 students aren't even eligible for vaccination at this time. Because of this, and having read the latest testing guidelines as of July 12, I would like to understand what the Board has discussed re: school-based testing, especially for elementary schools. As a collective approach is far more effective than an individual approach when it comes to control of respiratory viruses, I would like to implore you to increase your efforts in the very important work of continuing to build trust among the parents, students, and educators in the district by being proactive in development and communication of an updated mitigation protocol for school opening in the environment we face now, with the Delta variant.</p>