VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 23, 2021
MINUTES

Call to Order

In accordance with Governor Newsom's executive orders of social distancing due to the COVID-19, the Regular Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, as a teleconference/video conference meeting where one or more members participated. The public had the opportunity to submit their public comment via the public comments email address or live via the Zoom platform. The public streaming of the special Board meeting was made available through the Ventura Adult and Continuing Education, TDC Studios YouTube Channel. Those in attendance were:

Board President	Ms. Velma Lomax
Board Vice President	Mr. Matt Almaraz
Board Member	Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez
Board Member	Ms. Amy Callahan
Board Member	Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Superintendent	Dr. Roger Rice
Asst. Supt. /Certificated HR	Dr. Jeff Davis
Asst. Supt. /Bus. Services	Ms. Rebecca Chandler
General Counsel	Mr. Anthony Ramos

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve as Amended with the following changes:

- Move item #16b up on the agenda after item 14a.
- On item #18f, in the last sentence, the dates should say 2020-2021 instead of 2021-2022.
- On item #19g, the value of the YMCA swim lessons should be $2200.00 instead of $0.00.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

None.

Motion to go to Closed Session

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to go to closed session at 5:31 p.m.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

REGULAR SESSION - Ron Halt Classroom - 7:00 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m., Board President Velma Lomax called the Regular Meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was held in memory of Ms. Noemi Villalobos and Ms. Georgia Perry. Ms. Villalobos was an eighth grade student at Anacapa Middle School and a dedicated leader of the Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) program. She was a good problem solver, always had a positive attitude and was ready to help others. Noemi was silly, thoughtful, kind and affectionate. Ms. Perry was a volunteer extraordinaire. She was active in the National

Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Ventura County, a longtime member of the Ventura High School Boosters, Ventura Unified School Attendance Review Board and the Ventura Education Partnership. Ms. Perry was also the chair of BRAVO and helped with VUSD Grad Night. Ms. Perry always had a positive attitude and lit up a room when she entered it.

Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

None.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent, Dr. Roger Rice shared the following good news:

- Dr. Rice thanked the teachers and support staff for their hard work as we are getting back to some sense of normalcy.
- Received guidance from the California Department of Public Health last week that allowed us to begin transitioning our athletic programs and allow our students to practice and compete.
    - Dr. Rice gave a shout out to the Cross Country runners at Buena and Ventura High School who began their season with earnest and competition this past weekend at Oxnard High School. A special shout out to Buena Cross County Athlete Elias Wiggins who was the top runner with the time of 15.07. The next meet will be on February 27 at Rio Mesa High School.
    - Tennis will be starting in just a few weeks.
    - Case Rates and Positivity Rates are moving towards putting us in the red tier. We are hopeful that we can get below the "14 number", which would allow the following sports to reopen: football, water polo, baseball, softball and soccer.
- Currently, VUSD has over 263 small group cohorts working to support our students. Types of groups include: Social Emotional, Arts, ELA, Math Interventions, Robotics, etc.
- COVID numbers in the county are moving in a positive direction. We are currently at a 16.9/100,000 case rate down from 26.2 last week and have a 5.8 positivity rate down from 7.8 last week.
- Vaccine distribution in Ventura County will progress to Tier 1B, which includes educators, beginning next Monday March 1.
- Shout out to Principal Marissa Cervantes from DATA who started a positive campaign called "Cameras On". Ms. Cervantes has organized district staff and principals to strategize ways to get students to turn their cameras on while in a Zoom class, as face-to-face connection between students and teachers is important for building connections.

Student Board Member Logan Bobis (subbing for Frances Kayser) representing Ventura High School and Christine Davis representing VACE, gave a brief update on the exciting things happening at their school sites. Ms. Violet Delgado representing Buena was absent.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

The following individuals gave a public comment via e-mail regarding a preference for Montalvo or Atlas being chosen as the new East Ventura K-8, rainbow bridge play structure at Lemon Grove School and increasing the time students are receiving for in-person instruction at the elementary school level.

Maggie Kawasaki-Murray	Jaimie Hoffman	Erin Slack
Minako Watabe	Laura Traub	Jennifer Duston
Cassie Lawhead	Susan Lapointe	Chelsea DeLong
Kacie Edinger	Erendira Pimentel	Debbrial Rodgers
Kimberly Wren	Rachel Fudge	Camille Garcia
Bianca Ochoa	Betsy Held	Bonnie Galindo
Michelle Mack	Kimberly Almaguer	Ana Lomeli
Katie Morrisset	Robert Harrell	Fiona Bremner
Jessica Smith	Lauren Taluy	Patti Russell
Matt Russell		

The following individuals gave a live public comment via Zoom regarding their preference of making Atlas the new East Ventura K- 8, thanking the Board for their recent approval of the one time 1.5% off payment for all staff, announcing an upcoming auction at Pierpont Elementary School and requesting that school reopening be added to each agenda.

Jaimie Hoffman	Josie Russell	Gabe Kawasaki-Murray
Dan Nelson	Lauren Taluy	Timur Taluy

CONFERENCE - BUSINESS SERVICES

14.a **Discussion Regarding Properties Recommended for Surplus**

Ms. Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, introduced the President of Oxbridge Mr. Jerry Suiche, who presented on the five properties that have been identified by the 7-11 Committee as recommended for surplus:

1. Education Service Center (ESC) - 24.8 acres - zoned R1-1
2. Avenue School - 7.5 acres - zoned R1-1
3. Washington School - 5.4 acres - zoned R-3-5
4. Jewett Estate Farmland - 10 acres - zoned AE-40
5. Sudden Estate Farmland - 9.2 acres - zoned AE-40

Ms. Chandler requested direction from the Board on which properties to move forward with conducting a Due Diligence. There was Board consensus to move forward with the ESC. Board Members requested a tour of Washington School to gather additional information.

14.b **Preliminary 2020-2021 Second Interim Financial Report Presentation**

Ms. Anna Campbell, Director of Budget and Finance, gave an update on the 2020- 21 Preliminary Second Interim Budget Report. Ms. Campbell shared a 2020-21 Ventura Unified Budget Cycle Timeline, which showed that the Second Interim Report will be completed on March 9, 2021, the 2019-20 Audit Report (extended due to COVID) will be completed on March 31, 2021 and CDE/CARES Act Reporting will be completed on April 1, 2021.

Ms. Campbell shared data on VUSD's revenues, expenditures and multi year projections. The current revenues look similar to the first interim report with total revenues at $ 204,877,053. The current expenditures also look similar to the first interim with a total expenditures of $202,497,879. Looking at the multi-year projections, VUSD will still have some deficit issues to solve, however currently we are looking at .6 million dollars verses the 1.4 million projected during the first interim.

Ms. Campbell shared that the Governor's Budget provided Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) for future years which previously was 0.00%. It is estimate that next year, we will receive a total COLA of 3.84%.

14.c **Permission to Solicit Bids for Lemon Grove (Blanche Reynolds) TK-8 Playground (Action Requested)**

Dr. Susan Martinez, Principal of Lemon Grove School, shared that the Rainbow Bridge Playground was established in 1995 and came about as a joint fundraising effort between Ventura Unified School District, Blanche Reynolds School and community members. In 1995, the City of Ventura made an agreement with VUSD, granting VUSD $20,000, that would allow the public to use the playground on holidays, weekends, and non-school days from dusk until dawn; the agreement expired on April 30, 2002.

Some of the main concerns shared by Dr. Martinez include the playground is not ADA compliant and therefore not all students are able to access, the need to update the playground equipment for age appropriate structures due to the incoming sixth through eighth grade students and safety issues. Rainbow Bridge is currently not usable for students.

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to solicit bids for Lemon Grove (Blanche Reynolds) TK-8 Playground.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

CONFERENCE - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

15.a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Elementary Data

Ms. Gina Wolowicz, Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, shared that VUSD continues to use a multi-tiered system of support when building instructional programs. The multi-tiered system consists of the following domains: Administrative Leadership, Integrated Educational Framework, Family and Community Engagement, and Inclusive Structure and Practice. Ms. Wolowicz shared the VUSD LCAP goals which are to increase student achievement, to build student connections to school and to increase family involvement.

Ms. Wolowicz provided Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), Trimester 1, Elementary Assessment Data including assessments that occur in each of the grade levels K-5 throughout the school year; for Trimester 1, all assessments were taken at home. Both strengths and opportunities for growth were shared for the different grade levels for both Language Arts and Math. Ms. Wolowicz shared that with the data we have, the district is able to focus on student needs by:

- Universal access time within our daily schedules where students are getting differential learning with their teachers.
- Interventions occurring at our school sites in small groups (MTSS).
- Additional small groups offered outside of class time.
- After school programs which offer expended learning opportunities.

Board Members requested additional information regarding assessments pre-COVID verses now.

ACTION ITEMS

16.a Administrative Recommendation for Student Re-Admission from Expulsion

It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve the administrative recommendation regarding student re-admission for student # 20/21.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

16.b East End K-8 Location

It was moved by Mr. Matt Almaraz to open both K-8's, Atlas in 2022-2023 and Montalvo in 2023-2024. Motion not seconded; motion failed.

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Matt Almaraz and Failed on a roll call vote of 2 – 3 to approve Montalvo as the East Ventura K-8.

Ayes: Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez
Noes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg. Absent: None.
Abstain: None.

It was moved by Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, seconded by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez and passed on a roll call vote of 4 – 1 to approve Atlas as the new East Ventura K-8.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Noes: Mr. Matt Almaraz. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 –

0 to approve as Amended consent items #17-20 with the following changes:

- Item 18.f, the last sentence should read 2020-2021 instead of 2021-2022.
- Item 19.g, the value for the Ventura Family YMCA should be $2200.00 instead of $0.00.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

CONSENT- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

17.a Administrative Recommendation to Waive Board Policy 6146.1 (High School Graduation Requirements)

CONSENT - HUMAN RESOURCES - Certificated

18.a Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Certificated Personnel for the 2020-21 School Year

18.b Ratification of Administration's Approval for Leave of Absence for Certificated Personnel for the 2020-21 School Year

18.c Ratification of Administration's Approval of Employment and Reemployment of Substitute Teachers for the 2020-21 School Year

18.d Ratification of Administration's Approval of Miscellaneous & Part-Time Certificated Assignments for the 2020-21 School Year

18.e Ratification of Administration's Approval of Assignments Through Various Education Codes

CONSENT - BUSINESS SERVICES

19.a County of Ventura Shelter Agreement 2020-23

19.b Permission to Solicit Bids for Lemon Grove (Blanche Reynolds) TK-8 Project

19.c Permission to Solicit Bids for Pacific High School Farm Project

19.d Permission to Solicit Bids for Pacific High School Parking Lot Asphalt

19.e Permission to Solicit Bids for Buena High School and Ventura High School Pool Deck Repairs

19.f Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) Various Agreements

19.g Gifts to School District

19.h Ratification of Purchase Orders (January 27, 2021 to February 11, 2021)

CONSENT - SUPERINTENDENT

20.a Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD REPORTS

Dr. Jerry Dannenberg shared that he attended the the Ethnic and Social Justice Studies Committee meeting where they focused on on-going staff development and curriculum development as it will be part of the graduation requirements beginning this fall. Dr. Dannenberg also attended the Eastside Community Council meeting where they held a candidate forum for the 14 individuals running for the city council seat.

Ms. Amy Callahan shared that she will be attending the upcoming Equity and Access Leadership meeting for Sacramento State University as well as upcoming conferences with CAASA and CABE.

Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez congratulated Jeanette Sanchez-Palacios who was appointed to the vacant city council seat to represent District 4. Ms. Rodriguez attended the Ethnic and Social Justice Committee meeting and her first General Plan Advisory Committee meeting.

Mr. Matt Almaraz attended the Eastside Community Council meeting and watched the candidate forum. Mr. Almaraz also attended the Special Board Meeting where we were able to give VUSD employees a 1.5% one-time off-cycle increase. Mr. Almaraz shared that he also watched the Rover Perseverance land on Mars which was very exciting.

Ms. Velma Lomax shared that she will be attending a meeting tomorrow with the Navy to set up a Webinar for grant funding through the Department of Defense Cycle for all of our schools to get funding for Robotics. There will be a Webinar in March and another in April.

COMING EVENTS

Dr. Rice shared the following Coming Events:

- Special Education Department Advisory Committee (SEDAC) Meeting: February 26th at 9:00 a.m.
- Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting: March 2nd at 2:00 p.m.
- Cross Country Dual Meets:
    - February 27th: Dual Meet #2 at Rio Mesa High School
        - Buena vs. Channel Islands starting at 10:30 a.m.
        - Ventura vs. Oxnard starting at 12:30 p.m.
    - March 6th: Dual Meet #3 at Oxnard High School
        - Buena vs. Pacifica starting at 8:30 a.m.
        - Ventura vs. Channel Islands starting at 10:30 a.m.
- Board Holiday April 2nd - District Closed
- Spring Break: April 5th through April 9th - No School
- Secondary Reopening April 12th

Board Members shared the following Coming Events:

- Pierpont Elementary School Auction
- Teacher of the Month Celebration February 25th at 3:00 p.m. at Poinsettia

FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

- Board Policy Updates
- Mental Health and Counseling Services
- Distance Learning Protocols
- Human Resources Update
- Student Learning Loss

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS - (No official action will be taken)

Trustee Dannenberg would like to have additional information in a Friday Letter regarding the "Camera On" program that Principal Cervantes is organizing.

Trustee Rodriguez acknowledged that we have VUSD families who are disappointed that their school was not chosen as the East Ventura K-8 and families that are very excited that their school was chosen. Trustee Rodriguez shared that we are fortunate to have all these amazing schools to choose from in our District and appreciates all the work that went into the decision.

Trustee Almaraz shared that he is excited for Atlas and knows that Montalvo will continue doing a great job. Mr. Almaraz wished VESPA President, Ms. Carol Peek, a happy belated birthday. Mr. Almaraz also attended the Cross County meet this past Saturday and wanted to thank the hard work of Dr. Davis, the Athletic Committee, Athletic Directors Shaun Strople and Dave Hess, Assistant Principals Frank Davis and Tina Perez, Principal Carlos Cohen and Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice.

Trustee Lomax wished Trustee Dannenberg a happy birthday.

Dr. Rice thanked the staff for all of their good work including Dr. Greg Bayless, Ms. Gina Wolowicz, Ms. Rebecca Chandler and Ms. Soledad Molinar. Dr. Rice appreciated the recognition by the Board that the work never stops whether an item is on the agenda or not. Dr. Rice shared that the District talks about school reopening all day,

every day in all of its facets. Sometimes it's meeting with ACSA Superintendent's to see what the latest issues, talking with the County Office of Education, the California Department of Public Health, Ventura County Department of Public Health, the Athletic Directors and the Principals.

CLOSED SESSION

No need to return to closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Amy Callahan and passed on a roll call vote of 5 – 0 to approve to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 p.m. to the next Regular Board Meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 9, 2021.

Ayes: Ms. Velma Lomax, Mr. Matt Almaraz, Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Ms. Amy Callahan, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg
Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

APPROVED

Velma L. Lomax President

Secretary

[redacted]

From: Maggie Kawasaki-Murray <kawasaki.murray@[redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 5:34 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Make a public comment for Atlas k-8

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,
I am a parent of two boys: a 2nd grader and 4th grader who would benefit greatly to Atlas becoming a k-8 school. The benefits of the Leader in Me Program, the mentoring and dedication of the teachers has been all inspiring this past year. My boys moved to Atlas just last year and they want it to be their permanent school. Middle school options for us will really have us considering private school for our children for those three grades.

Please consider Atlas for the K-8 option.

Sincerely,
Maggie Kawasaki-Murray

Sent from my iPhone

[redacted]

From: Jaimie Hoffman <jaimielhoffman@[redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 7:18 PM
To: Public Comment
Cc: Jaimie Hoffman
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Public comment for meeting 2/23

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear School Board:

First of all, thank you for moving forward with identifying more schools in the district to become K-8. As a higher education professional, I am growing my knowledge of K-12 as my daughters, Jojo (second grade at ATLAS) and Sophie (incoming Kindergartener) move through the district. Through my own research, I learned that K-8 is an excellent option for children because kids have more stability while they go through the difficult aspects of adolescence, students in k-8 schools view their academic abilities more positively, and k-8 schools have higher achievement and lower suspension rates.

I firmly believe that ATLAS is the appropriate School to transition to K-8.

I am particularly excited about ATLAS being K-8 because they have the Leader in Me program and with kids staying longer they'll have even more of a chance to mentor their peers (and receive mentoring) which helps with self-esteem. It is so important that we continue to build a diverse pipeline of leaders - individuals from Latinx communities represent 16.7% of the population but are under proportionally represented in leadership positions. For instance, only 9% of the United States Congress are Latinx and only 3.8% of doctors identified as Latinx (in a 2019 survey). As a community that is 55.7% Latinx, we have a duty to help build leaders of the future. The fact that the Leader in Me was voted by CASEL as the highest-rated, most comprehensive SEL program is even more impetus to foster continuity through grade 8.

I share my support for ATLAS on behalf of myself and my family but also the hundreds of people in the ATLAS community who signed a petition last year and the upcoming children of the Farm community. In an informal poll in our Community Facebook group, we counted 67 children (51 aged 0 through 5 and 16 kinder). Many of my neighbors do not yet have school-aged children and are not yet in a position to weigh in on this decision. Those of us whose children are school-aged are interested in having ATLAS as an option for K-8. In fact, it is motivating us further consider staying in the district for middle school as many of us think about the prospect of sending our children to large middle schools.

Please vote for ATLAS to be K-8 and for our East End to have another middle school option.

Sincerely,
Jaimie

--

Jaimie Hoffman, Ed.D.

Engage with me on social media: Engage with me on social media:

- Listen to the Podcast I cohost
- Follow me on Twitter
- Connect with me on LinkedIn
- Check out my website

[redacted]

From: Erin Slack <erinne4@[redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:41 PM
To: Public Comment
Cc: Rice, Roger; Rodriguez, Sabrena; Callahan, Amy; Lomax, Velma; Almaraz, Matt; Dannenberg, Jerry
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Support for Montalvo School as K-8

Hello!

I would like to offer my continued support for Montalvo to be selected as the K-8 school for the east end. In addition to being a wonderful environment to continue the learning process, it makes sense to select an immersion school for the next K-8. In speaking with several parents who have students at Anacapa, it seems as though Anacapa is not able to offer enough classes in Spanish for all of the immersion students. Selecting Montalvo as a K-8 would allow for our students to be able receive instruction in Spanish as needed.

Thanks for considering and selecting Montalvo!

Erin Slack
Montalvo 1st grader

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 9, 2021, at 3:19 PM, Erin Slack <erinne4@aol.com> wrote:
>
> Hello All!
>
> First of all, I wanted to thank you for putting the kids first and continuing with the re-opening of the elementary schools. My son is so happy to be able to reduce the number of zoom classes! He is also benefiting socially, emotionally, and academically with the return to in-person instruction.
>
> For today's meeting, I would like to offer my support for Montalvo being selected to move forward as a K-8 school. If my son were not in the immersion program at Montalvo, I would have moved him to a private school over this past year. He loves learning in Spanish and I realize the long-term benefits of this program and hope that you will consider Montalvo for this expansion.
>
> Thank you!
>
> Erin Slack
> Montalvo 1st Grade Parent
>

[redacted]

From: Minako Watabe <minako.watabe@[redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 9:01 PM
To: Rodriguez, Sabrena; Callahan, Amy; Dannenberg, Jerry; Almaraz, Matt; Public Comment; Rice, Roger; Lomax, Velma
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Montalvo for k-8

Hello VUSD Board members,
I would like to express my support for Montalvo becoming a k-8 school.
Thank you!
Minako watabe
(Mother of 2 Montalvo students)

[redacted]

From: Laura Traub <LTraub@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 6:14 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Montalvo K-8 Support

Dear VUSD Board,

I am a very happy VUSD parent and I am writing today regarding the Board's upcoming decision about which school site shall become the east end K-8. All three of my kids are in the TWI program. I have a 7th grader at Anacapa (who went to Montalvo for K-5), a 4th grader at Montalvo and a 1st grader at Montalvo. I think I am a pretty involved parent. I have volunteered inside and outside the classroom at Montalvo on a weekly basis prior to covid, attended field trips at Anacapa and participated in the LCAP process for a number of years. Therefore I will share my opinion both as a current Montalvo parent and also as the parent of a student who has transitioned into middle school at Anacapa in the TWI program.

We as a community are incredibly fortunate to have so many amazing options to choose from for our children's education. Along those lines, it would be very fitting to have a TWI program as one of our K-8 schools. As I'm sure you are aware, research shows that students in a K-8 model ultimately outperform their peers who attend an elementary school and then a middle school. The K-8 model has been shown to have social/emotional benefits for students as well. Studies have also shown that students who are bilingual outperform their monolingual peers. With two current choices for K-8 schools in our district in which instruction is given primarily in English, and three different TWI elementary schools, it seems like a TWI K-8 would definitely make sense. I would LOVE for my two current elementary school students to be able to stay at Montalvo through 8th grade. In fact if Montalvo were to become a K-8 in the fall (which I know is not an option), I would move my 7th grader back for his 8th grade year without hesitation.

Not only is the transition to middle school a very difficult one, the students who are coming from Montalvo (my friends with students who attended our other TWI schools in Ventura say the same) have had such a different elementary school experience that they tend to stick together and remain a tight knit group. A TWI K-8 would give students more of an opportunity to meet and make friends with TWI students from other VUSD schools who have had similar elementary school experiences.

Before I continue, I want to say that I am very happy with Anacapa. The teachers, my sons counselor and the Principal have all been very helpful and responsive. The things I mention in this paragraph have been shared with the appropriate people at Anacapa and have all been handled. In fairness, I cannot give an update about how things are now because we've been quarantining at home for the last year like everyone else. Also, I know that covid has changed the dynamic of school friendships somewhat, however I'll still mention that my son's cohort from Montalvo is all still together and I don't think their circle of friends (at least the boys) has added anyone to their group. Additionally, he and his friends have been made fun of and had several other unkind interactions with students at the school. While I know these things happen in middle and high school, it was still shocking to our sons who had only known the cozy cocoon of Montalvo. My son who loved school all the way through 5th grade, hated it by the second week of 6th grade. By

February of that year, my happy-go-lucky son was experiencing anxiety and was diagnosed as depressed. He cried, was lethargic and refused to go to school (however I made him attend his classes). He was wanting to self-harm ONLY because of interactions at his middle school with other kids from outside the TWI program. Many other boys in his cohort had very similar experiences minus the self-harming part. Additionally, his Spanish skills are declining. My 4th grader at Montalvo is becoming more fluent and biliterate than my 7th grader. The focus on learning Spanish and the experience of being on a campus where bilingualism, biliterate abilities and cultural education (relating to the target language) are not primary objectives, are definitely being felt. Montalvo is a warm and welcoming campus with amazing and dedicated staff.

As I stated in the beginning of my email, I am a very happy VUSD parent. My point in sharing my son's experience was to underscore that our TWI students have a very different experience in middle school than they had at their elementary schools. They also have a different middle school experience than other students their age. I feel that it would be a huge benefit in our community which offers many options for school, to complement our TWI program with a K-8 school.

I know that Atlas is also a fantastic school and that you face a difficult choice. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts about Montalvo. Thank you very much for taking the time to read my email.

Kindly,

LAURA TRAUB
CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL TECHNICIAN
VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
5189 Verdugo Way • Camarillo, CA 93012
[redacted]
[redacted] • www.vcoe.org

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[redacted]

From: Jennifer Duston <jennifer.duston@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 7:08 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Public comment in support of ATLAS K-8

My name is Jennifer Duston and I am submitting this public comment in support of ATLAS being transformed into a K-8 school option for VUSD families. As a former parent of 2 girls who went through ATLAS and as the former principal of 10 years, our community has consistently requested this. Both in my role as a parent and principal it was brought up multiple times per year, for many reasons, by many different parents both at ATLAS and surrounding East End schools. In fact, it was one of the very first questions I was asked about as a new principal in 2010. At the time, it was not part of the districts vision or plan for an additional K-8 school. Well now it is, and ATLAS has been waiting. I share this with you to give you the confidence that this community and staff has the passion and commitment to do the work necessary to support this school through its transformation.
There's another community that will be here to support ATLAS through this transition and that is their Franklin Covey Education, Leader In Me family. As an 8 year Leader In Me School, ATLAS has a team of coaches and supporters, including other K-8 schools and principals that will be right by their side on this journey. They will have the skills, tools and be involved in on going professional development as they create their transition plan and implement their new school model. Especially important will be the emphasis they place in bridging the gap between the k-5 and 6-8 students by expanding their Big Buddy/Little Buddy program and expanding opportunities for their older students to really be empowered and take on leadership roles within their school.
I am really excited about the possibility that the Saticoy Communities long-time dream of a K-8 school could become a reality with the decision of this board. The staff wants it, the students want it, the parents want it—make the right decision and make ATLAS a K-8 option for VUSD families.

Best,
Jennifer Duston

Jennifer Duston
Client Partner
Franklin Covey Education
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Cassie Lawhead <cassie.lawhead@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 8:24 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Montalvo K-8

Dear Dr. Rice and Ventura Board of Education members,

Once again, I am writing to offer my support for the K-8 program at Montalvo school. I am aware of the challenges we might face in figuring out how to best make this transition, but I want to throw my full support behind Ms. Caudill. She is an excellent principal who is fully capable of creating a program that will thrive at our school. I believe the K-8 model is the future of education in our country and will be very attractive for families in the years to come. The TWI model, in particular, will benefit from a single campus for grades K through eight where the language acquisition can be further strengthened in a supportive, fully immersive environment.

Thank you for your consideration,
Cassie Lawhead

[redacted]

From: Soozee Lapointe <sdclark881@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 8:33 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Montalvo for K-8

Hello,
First, thank you so much for all of your hard work keeping our district running during this pandemic. I know we only see the tip of the iceberg of your workload and our family truly appreciates you. I am emailing to show my support in turning Montalvo Arts Academy into a K-8 school. Not only do I feel the location is ideal for our district but the staff at Montalvo are some of the hardest working and smartest people I know. I feel they would make the transition smooth and that the school would help our district thrive. Looking forward to the board meeting.
Best,
Susan Lapointe

[redacted]

From: Chelsea DeLong <chelseadelong805@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 8:36 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Fwd: K-8 east end

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Chelsea DeLong <chelseadelong805@[redacted]
> **Date:** February 22, 2021 at 10:11:57 AM PST
> **To:** Public.comment@venturausd.org
> **Subject: K-8 east end**
>
> Hello!
> My name is Chelsea DeLong and I am a parent at Montalvo elementary (4th grader) and Anacapa middle (6th grader).
>
> I will make this brief. I am in full support of a K-8 east end school. I believe having this at Montalvo would be most beneficial. Montalvo had an incredible dual immersion program that works!
>
> Sending my children to Montalvo has been one of the most important and positive decisions I have made as a parent. It is setting them up to be well rounded and diverse members of our community. The teachers are culturally aware and respectful and understand the importance of dual language and community support.
>
> Thank you so much for your time. And please consider Montalvo as a K-8. I can bet you won't regret it.
>
> Sincerely,
> Chelsea DeLong
>
> Sent from my iPhone

[redacted]

From: Kacie Edinger <kacie@[redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:20 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- SUPPORT MONTALVO K-8

Hello,
I wanted to show my support for Montalvo K-8. We need a bilingual immersion school as a K-8. It is important to the community that they allow our young children continue their education in a program that supports their language immersion program.
This an extremely positive step in the right direction right now when the kids and parents are struggling.
Thank you,
Kacie L. Edinger

[redacted]

From: Erendira Pimentel <erendiraguerrero@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 8:55 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Montalvo

To Whom it May Concern,
We have been a part of Montalvo Arts Academy for 5 years now. We currently have 3 students enrolled in the TWI program. We have driven from the westside of Ventura to Montalvo since our oldest was in Kindergarten in order to be a part of the 90/10 TWI model Montalvo offers. We love the school. We love how it feels like one big family. With two k-8 options in the mainstream English Program already offered within the district, we feel that it is time for a K-8 TWI option within the District. What better way to continue the road to bilingualism and biliteracy than by offering a consistent program in the same environment until High School. We would be so happy to know that our 5 kids will be attending Montalvo from Kindergarten until their first year of high school. We will continue to speak highly of Montalvo and recommend the school to those considering a TWI program in Ventura. Please make this a dream come true for our TWI family and choose Montalvo as the next K-8 school in the District.
Thank you for your time,

Eréndira Pimentel

[redacted]

From: Debbrial Rodgers <debbrial.rodgers@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:09 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- For Montavlo K-8

Hi I would like to express my approving vote and enthusiasm for Montalvo Elementary to be chosen as K-8. It will be beneficial for the current and future students to continue the Spanish bilingual program in one school. The It will also benefit the community since both other K-8 schools proposed are traditional English programs.

Please consider the votes for Montalvo School as another K-8.

Thank you.
Debbrial

--
--Debbrial Rodgers--

[redacted]

From: Kimberley Wren <kimmerkat24@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:24 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Atlas K-8

I would like to express my views on the K-8 option for Atlas Elementary. I currently have two students, one in 2nd, one in kindergarten and soon to be a third for the 2021/2022 school year.

My children are thriving at Atlas, even with the hiccups of the hybrid learning. The teachers are going out of their way to make sure the kids are staying the course.

The Leader in Me program has been amazing for my children, my older two teach their younger sister what it takes to be a leader, and I believe that if they were able to continue that program all the way through 8th grade, we will have tons of wonderful, productive members of society.

I believe that making Atlas the pick for the K-8 program would be very beneficial for the school/staff.

I am 1000000% supportive of Atlas Elementary becoming a K-8 school.

Thank you for time on reading my email
Kimberley Wren

[redacted]

From: rachelfudge83 <rachelfudge83@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:58 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- ATLAS to become a k-8

Hello School Board,

My name is Rachel Fudge, parent of Hannah Fudge who attends ATLAS. We would like ATLAS to be through 8th Grade as we feel this would better serve the community and the students.Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

[redacted]

From: camillegarcia7777 [redacted] <camillegarcia7777@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:11 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- K-8 at ATLAS

Good Morning,

I'm in favor for having ATLAS become a K-8 school. ATLAS is already a leader in me school so it just makes sense to have it go up to 8th grade. Those leaders can be teaching/leading the youngers kids and I think it would be a beautiful thing.

Also, the west side of Ventura already has 2 middle schools- Cabrillo and Anacapa. The east end only has one option and that's Balboa. We deserve the choice to have our students have options.

ATLAS is an amazing community, teachers/parents are close knit and work together.

Please vote ATLAS in becoming a K-8th. Thank you for your time!!

Camille Garcia
(parent to a 2nd grader at ATLAS)

[redacted]

From: Public Comment
To: Bianca Ochoa
Subject: RE: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Parent Support of Montalvo Arts Converting to K-8 School

From: Bianca Ochoa <bianca2412o@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:51 AM
To: Public Comment <public.comment@venturausd.org>
Subject: Re: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Parent Support of Montalvo Arts Converting to K-8 School

From: Bianca Ochoa <bianca2412o[redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 10:35 AM
To: Rodriguez, Sabrena <Sabrena.Rodriguez@venturausd.org>; Callahan, Amy <Amy.Callahan@venturausd.org>; Lomax, Velma <Velma.Lomax@venturausd.org>; Almaraz, Matt <Matt.Almaraz@venturausd.org>; Dannenberg, Jerry <Jerry.Dannenberg@venturausd.org>; Rice, Roger <Roger.Rice@venturausd.org>; Public Comment <public.comment@venturausd.org>
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Parent Support of Montalvo Arts Converting to K-8 School

Hello and good morning,

My name is Bianca and I have a daughter in 2nd grade in the Two-Way Immersion Program at Montalvo. In 1 year, I will have my youngest at Montalvo for Kinder.
We are in full support of Montalvo converting to a K-8 School!! Thank you!!

Sincerely,

Bianca Ochoa
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: BETSY HELD <betsicali54@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:24 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Request for ATLAS to become K-8

Good afternoon.

I'd like to urgently request that ATLAS school in Saticoy become a K-8 school. I think it would be a great addition for our community and beneficial for my grandson. Thank you.

Sincerely, Betsy Held
[redacted]
Ventura, CA. 93004

[redacted]

From: MB Galindo <galindobills528@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Public Comment; Rodriguez, Sabrena; Callahan, Amy; Lomax, Velma; Almaraz, Matt; Dannenberg, Jerry; Rice, Roger
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Public comment and board communication - VUSD board meeting 2/23/21, agenda item K-8 east end location

VUSD Board of Education Supervisors and all other concerned parties:

I write to you and make a public comment once again to advocate for a K-8 TWI program at Montalvo. In light of now having two English only K-8 options in our school district at Lemon Grove and Sunset, it should be the only consideration at this point. A K-8 TWI option is needed in the district even more so now that there are two English only options for K-8 within VUSD.

For TWI students not socially or emotionally developmentally ready to enter middle school, having a K-8 TWI option will offer the support to those students and families seeking extended time in an environment in which they feel confident and secure further ensuring strong all-around performance. As it stands now, regardless of social and emotional readiness, families who choose the TWI program are gambiling with their child's social and emotional development and hoping that when the time comes, their child will be ready for a middle school environment. Having a TWI K-8 option ensures such a gamble does not need to be taken with a child's well-being when the families make that decision for their child during kindergarten enrollment.

The TWI program may not have an official title of "leadership" in it, but it is in the very nature of someone who is multilingual to have the ability to lead more universally and equitably. I ask that the board not get caught up in semantics and be so focused on a program's title but instead look at the larger picture of what the program is producing. TWI produces high achieving, successful, multilingual individuals who bring quality and a specific and increasingly distinctive skill set to their fields of study and the work force and are better suited to lead with understanding in both language and culture.

The VUSD TWI program needs to be given equal attention in the education tracks it offers and not relegated to a single track option of Montalvo/Will Rogers - Anacapa - Ventura. Historically, VUSD has lost students to the Rio school district solely due to their K-8 option; parents value a K-8 program so much that they will go through the process of an interdistrict transfer. After the student loss the district has experienced this year, the lack of having a K-8 TWI program does not need to continue to be a reason families choose to leave VUSD.

The centralized, historical location within Ventura and convenient access to the 101 and 126 makes the campus itself highly appealing and desirable to all East End families wanting a traditional track K-8 and those seeking a K-8 TWI option living in other areas of Ventura.

What ATLAS offers - technology enrichment, leadership and buddy programs, and land to expand on when/if demand for English only K-8 arises - is not something that could not also be offered at Lemon Grove given that they are all English only. The only other school that could offer what a Montalvo K-8 school would bring to the district is Will Rogers.

Yes, an East End K-8 is needed, but adding yet another K-8 English only campus is not what VUSD needs and sends a clear message that the TWI program is seen as nothing more than a program the district uses to check off the "woke box" and for the sake of political correctness and speaks to the lack of value the district places on TWI.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Galindo, Montalvo parent 4th and 1st graders
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Michelle Parisien <michelleparisien85@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:55 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Montalvo advancing to K-8

To whom it may concern:
Thank you for taking the time to hear others opinions. I truly believe that Montalvo would be an excellent choice for K-8 for many reasons. Not only will this be beneficial to the TWI program in ways such as creating a consistent immersion learning environment for more years and allows the expectations of the TWI program to be continued through junior high. Moving Montalvo to a K-8 not only benefits the TWI program but greatly affects the traditional learning school. It will allow for a smaller setting for those tough pre teen years and will continue the support the school currently gives them.
We have had such great experiences in just one year that we've been there. Mrs. Cladill has blown us away with the support she has given us through the pandemic year of education. She has listened to our concerns and worked with my son when he started loosing himself due to the learning environment. With this being said I couldn't imagine another principle taking this task on in the VUSD. She loves what she does and it shows. If you have any further questions please reach out. I look forward to hearing the decision after tonight's meeting.

Sincerely,
Michelle Mack

[redacted]

From: KIMBERLY Kimberly <kimac4@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Montalvo k-8

> Hello,
>
> I would like to vote for Montalvo to become a K-8 school.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Kimberly Almaguer

Sent from my iPhone

[redacted]

From: Ana Lomeli <nannie76rox@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 12:32 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- K-8 Atlas

Voting on YES for Atlas to be a K-8 school!!!!!! My daughter is a student at Atlas and we love this school. I feel it's beneficial to make it till 8th grade. I feel my daughter would feel more confident staying in the same school! Same surroundings, staff,support, etc... I vote lets make ATLAS K-8!!!!!!! Thank you, Ana Lomeli

[redacted]

From: Katie Morrisset <katie@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 1:08 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- ATLAS K-8

Dear VUSD,

As a mother of 4 children (a 24 year old who attended Balboa, a 13 year old currently at Anacapa, a 7 year old currently at ATLAS, and a 4 year old who will attend ATLAS) I am 100% IN FAVOR of ATLAS becoming K-8. I feel the location of the school lends itself to this purpose because it is near the freeway and easily accessible. Also the large campus will allow the school to expand and add more buildings. The staff at ATLAS is amazing and I would love for my two youngest children to remain there until high school.

Thank you,
Katie Morrisset

Sent from my iPhone

Dear VUSD Board and Executive team,

A year ago, I had the privilege of addressing this board and executive staff in person. Unfortunately, that is not possible now, but my position has not changed. The District has gone to great lengths to provide choices and flexibility to students and family. I would challenge you to continue that tradition by making both ATLAS and Montalvo K-8 schools. Both these schools have students, parents, community members, teachers and staff who not only want their school to be K-8 but are willing to go the extra mile to make it happen.

ATLAS drew my family to the district. Its leadership program was at that time unique to the area and provided, in my opinion, a revolutionary way of teaching students. I have volunteered weekly in the leadership program at ATLAS for several years now. I have personally seen it in action, building community, lifting people up and providing a powerful environment to teach children. I believe it is now time for ATLAS to lead the way once again and help build the K-8 system in VUSD.

I submit for your consideration my recommendation of making ATLAS the first school on the east end a K-8, but not the last school.

Robert S Harrell

[redacted]

From: Fiona Bremner <fbremner@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 3:07 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Comment regarding Rainbow Bridge

I was very sad to hear recently that Rainbow Bridge was going to be torn down. It is a unique and iconic playground in Ventura and its origin story - being built with volunteer community help and funding - is inspiring. I urge you to replace it with a similarly unique structure, if repair of the current structure is not feasible. Santa Barbara has Children's World, Ojai has a similar structure in Libby Park and Rainbow Bridge is the closest thing Ventura has to such structures. I think it is worth saving or replacing with a structure that is comparable to those structures. Santa Barbara's Children's World - the structure that inspired Rainbow Bridge - was remodeled a few years back and remains one of the most cherished parks in the city. Can't we do the same for Rainbow Bridge?

Thank you,

Fiona Bremner
Ventura, CA 93003

[redacted]

From: Smith, Jessica <jessica.smith@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Written comment for item 16b./ agenda for 2/23/21

Distinguished board members and administrators of the Ventura Unified School District,

As a parent of a student and a future student at ATLAS Elementary school, I would like to express my support for selecting ATLAS Elementary School to become the Ventura Unified School District's next K-8 campus. ATLAS is well suited to moving to a K-8 model and the choice would benefit both the students and the school district for many reasons.

The transition of "Saticoy Elementary School" to "ATLAS Elementary School" in 2013 brought the Leader in Me program to the Ventura Unified School District. Our students and staff at ATLAS have achieved so much with the implementation of the leadership program in our school. As VUSD has now invested in the program for the district and is poised to begin implementation at other campuses, ATLAS is in a prime position to roll out the Leader in Me program to 6th, 7th and 8th graders. As students who have spent their academic careers putting first things first and learning to harness their own leadership abilities, the students of ATLAS can continue forth with the skills they've learned into the higher grades, fully realizing the benefit of the Leader in Me program. Students and staff have a proven track record with the program and it will be of great benefit to continue on into the middle grades as well.

Our principal, Anna Winslow, came to us with an enthusiasm for the things parents, students and staff are doing at ATLAS. One of her career highlights is transitioning her past school from an "elementary school" only structure to a Pre-K through 8th grade campus. We have the utmost faith that she will be able to make the most of this transition for ATLAS and bring her experience and training to skillfully implement this exciting change at our school.

Over 60% of our students enrolled at ATLAS come from a socioeconomically disadvantaged background. The continuity and stability provided by a K-8 school model would be of great benefit to this student population. The academic confidence with which students emerging from K-8 schools carry forth with them into high school will only serve them well in their futures and the futures of their families. While providing for our most vulnerable students, transitioning ATLAS to a K-8 campus will continue to attract students from throughout Ventura and surrounding areas, strengthening the diversity of our student population from various ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

In addition to the comments you receive in writing and live during tonight's board meeting, please take into consideration the petition previously provided to you signed by parents, guardians and other interested parties in support of the transition of ATLAS to a K-8 school, as well as the numerous letters and comments of support when this item last came before you.

I hope that you will consider choosing ATLAS Elementary for the next K-8 campus. It will be a win-win for VUSD and the students of ATLAS. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Jessica Smith
Parent of a current and a future ATLAS student

[redacted]

From: Lauren Taluy <lm.taluy@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 3:51 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Public Comments

Dear Members of the Board,

I have been thrilled that our children have been able to be on campus for in-person learning. I thank you for your decision in that regard. We have met the first milestone of getting student back in class, but let me be clear....your work is not done. Your work is really never done, of course as there is always business to attend to, but until our kids are in school FULL TIME this issue should be on every meeting agenda.

Let's take this step by step. I know you will say you can't get children on campus five days a week, so let's start by no longer wasting Wednesdays. When the decision was made for a hybrid program you made it clear that Wednesdays would be used when there was a holiday that resulted in no school. As usual the board apparently changed their mind and our children are missing out on yet another day of school for no reason. You tout the importance of Wednesdays being a social emotional learning day, however we all know that what would be best for their social and emotional well-being would be to be in school with their teachers and peers.

Another reason that you said we needed to have students off of campus on Wednesdays was because the schools could not be cleaned between cohorts otherwise. Clearly that is not the case as evidenced by the fact that the two different groups will be going to school on back-to-back days this Thursday and Friday. As a step towards getting our children in school in person more time I'm asking you to consider letting children go to school on Wednesdays in person. There is no reason that the groups could not share the day and go every other week one additional day. This would still be far from an optimal solution, but any more time we can get with our children with their peers and teachers is a step in the right direction. I understand that increasing the amount of school our children get in person will take time and apparently a lot of steps, but if we don't start now there is no chance our kids will be in class full time for next school year. This issue needs to be on every board agenda from now until our children are back in school full-time. I would greatly appreciate response from this board as to why this is not happening or is not a possibility. Thank you for your time as always.

Sincerely,
Lauren Taluy
Mother of two Pierpont Elementary Students

[redacted]

From: Patti Russell <patticaceros@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 4:07 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- Making ATLAS Elementary K-8

My name is Patti, I'm a mom of a first grader and fourth grader currently attending ATLAS. We want ATLAS to be a K-8 school!! I love that its a Lighthouse Leader in Me school. The kids and faculty/staff feel like family and carrying that into middle school would be so beneficial to all the kids and the community. Having established and solid relationships with friends and teachers will be so healthy especially in the middle school years that can be tricky for kids to navigate.
We do not like the options for the current middle schools and I believe ATLAS would make an incredible school to extend to 8th grade! I'm hoping my daughter will be in the first 6th grade class at ATLAS, please make it happen!

-Patti Russell

[redacted]

From: Matt Russell <mattyrussell@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 4:17 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: -EXTERNAL SENDER- k-8 For Atlas Elementary

Hi VUSD,

My name is Matt Russell. I have 2 children enrolled at Atlas. We are beyond pleased with how Atlas teaches our kids. Please consider having Atlas shift from a K-5 into a K-8 school.

--
~Matt Russell