ASB Approves A Mix Of Options For Returning Students

The Amador School Board has approved a mix of options for students returning to class, and has delayed the start of school. The decision followed a marathon, nearly 5-hour special meeting that saw input from a wide range of officials, district staff, and the public. Students and parents will have three options to choose from in the age of coronavirus—full distance learning, in which students will not attend class in person and conduct all of their learning daily online with teachers, home schooling or independent study which will be conducted by parents with support from the school district, similar to the Northstar Independent Study Program and finally a hybrid program that will combine in-person classroom instruction with online distance learning. The board also approved moving the opening day of class from August 12th to August 31st. Board President Susan Ross was against the final proposal, and called for a slower roll out of in-person instruction, In-person learning will be conducted with a number of new safety precautions, including requiring all teachers and students over 2nd grade to wear cloth masks, social distancing including more spread-out class seating arrangements, temperature checks and virus cleaning. Under the education rules issued by Governor Newsom on Friday, counties on the state watch list must only use distance learning. If case numbers or positive tests increase enough to place Amador on the state watch list, all classroom learning will have to end.