

January 25, 2022

Call to the Audience - Board committee to evaluate Covid protocols in schools

Dear Governing Board and Dr. Trujillo,

There are no easy answers when it comes to COVID and education. We know that On-line and hybrid options are not great for education, but how great is it for students to have classes held in the cafeteria because of the number of teachers out sick or the lack of substitutes? What is the quality of education when students have family members that are sick/hospitalized and/or dying? Despite current efforts, TUSD needs to do more to ensure the safety of its students and its staff.

CARE believes that all options—including temporary school closures at the most affected sites—should be considered. Misunderstandings or misinformation about what entity has the power to implement such options are obviously not helpful and could, in fact, be deadly. And yet, that is what has occurred. We are grateful to Board member Shaw for finding out that the governor’s order banning districts from closing schools for Covid prevention had been rescinded, so in fact the District CAN close schools if necessary. We call on other Board members to similarly question the information they receive from the District as well in order to best serve the community.

CARE supports the creation of a separate and independent Board committee that includes parents, staff, teachers and student voices. That committee would evaluate CDC and PCHD data alongside Covid data from the schools. TUSD needs to focus on resolving critical school site challenges, and this cannot be done without input from the sites. Finally, the new committee would also be tasked with following various legislative actions having to do with Covid in the schools in order to avoid a repeat of this problem. Such a Board committee would have the power to make policy recommendations to the Board based on its findings. While these recommendations could not be binding without Board agreement, they would be public—so that there would be accountability in the event that the Board chose not to follow them.

We look forward to an open discussion and evaluation of this idea as soon as possible. We, along with a host of concerned parents, need to know that TUSD values students and will consider all options when it comes to their safety.

Sincerely,
Betts Putnam-hidalgo
for CARE4TUSD

CARE 4 TUSD

www.care4tUSD.org

