

Speaker Comments

Board Meeting July 23, 2020

Name	Affiliation	Topic	Comments
	Student	No Comments	
	Parent	No Comments	
Cathy Smith	Community	Transparency	<p>I continue to question and try to understand why there is such an apparent lack of public advertised knowledge and transparent communications between RCSD and the community that it serves? Specifically BOE scheduled meetings, forums and public discussions. Lack of communication is an exacerbated concern to me as we navigate through the questions surrounding building re-openings because of the pandemic. There are numerous elephants in the room.</p> <p>Just to highlight a few elephants: BOE current meetings are not updated on the RCSD website. Including today's BOE meeting there have been 7 BOE meetings since the web list of June 18. ZERO awareness + Zero participation x Zero knowledge = Zero trust.</p> <p>Trust cannot be built until questions are answered. District leaders and the BOE need to conduct public forums, well published in advance, to answer questions from the constituents.</p> <p>Safety for all is paramount to re-open buildings. Transparency is in questions since, the discussions about building openings between the district and the unions are embargoed.</p> <p>The clock is ticking. The list of questions is long and by no means the only questions, however, I am certain, that the community wants answers.</p> <p>Will testing be a requirement for all that enter the buildings to attend school physically? Who will be tested and how often? What will be the procedures when someone tests positive in a school? Method of notification/s to staff and families? Contact tracing? Shut down 24 hrs. like restaurants to deep clean? Who provides the PPE</p>

Speaker Comments
Board Meeting July 23, 2020

			<p>equipment? What PPE will be required/masks, hand sanitizer, shields? How will children with special education needs receive their related services? Speech, PT, OT, and resource room. How will Special education student's reevaluation, required in person testing, take place? How will required 6ft distancing occur on the buses and classrooms? Many older buildings have small rooms and many special education small groups are placed in small square footage rooms. Are schools safe with appropriate ventilation systems? Are buildings that use basements areas for classrooms well ventilated? Some classrooms in some buildings do not have windows for added ventilation. Are there building CDC inspections required? Vents in many buildings are clogged and nasty with dust and debris. What are acceptable MSDS for cleaning products? There are many restrictions and unless compliant materials, are provided, there will be violations. Who is responsible to monitor health of each building? Who will clean the schools? Bathrooms and frequently touched areas? Recommended frequent hand washing in bathrooms with no soap or hand towels? How often? Will more full-time day shift custodial staff be required? How will students transition from class to class and maintain 6ft distancing in the halls? How will classes; music, art, choir and band be offered? How will hands-on Science labs be conducted? Who will be accountable to be in touch with students everyday? What technology is provided? How will increased Teacher planning time be fairly and effectively allocated? Will more teachers be necessary for a hybrid model? How will large group areas/classes be handled? Cafeterias, PE classes. How will medically fragile and health vulnerable children and staff be accommodated?</p> <p>My hybrid suggestions: Consider at the high school level; 2 semester model, 3-4 accelerated classes with two groups. Group A Semester 1 September to January in school building and group B on-line, each group completing 3-4 classes per semester. Switch groups Semester 2 end of January to June A group on-line, Group B in buildings. Pros:</p>
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Speaker Comments
Board Meeting July 23, 2020

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			<p>model in the best interest of a higher standard teaching model and student-centered education? Do long-term substitutes increase the vulnerability to lessen high educational outcomes or do these positons add to the families that walk away from RCSD.</p> <p>Given that there are approximately 200,000 city residents and 25,000 students, and 3500 teachers in the district BOE President Van White mentions 33 viewers for a forum that he recently participated in, all due respect, How was that forum publicized?</p> <p>Lastly, Vice President Elliot mentions she is aware that teachers may take extended medical leave when they have had issues. Also mentioned by Mr. Snipes Monday, Friday accountability. I suggest if/when there are questions about absenteeism there should be accountability and magnification on administrative practices and morale of the building/s in question. There may be a data correlation to teacher medical leaves or long weekend respite in buildings where some leadership practices affects low staff morale, which in turn, develops toxic work environments and higher absenteeism.</p>
	Staff	No Comments	