

Hello,

I just wanted to check in and send my full comment to you from last night. Unfortunately I was cut off at 2:29, instead of the full 3 minutes (yes, Julie was timing me from home). Because I had practiced several times throughout the day I knew I was coming in well under the 3 minute cut off but unfortunately my time was cut short last night. I am attaching this only because my final few sentences in my public comment were at the heart of what I was trying to get at. Yanira touched on this when she spoke but I just really wanted you to have my words on this matter as well.

Thank you so much for all you do and for all you put up with. We are so very lucky to have all of you on our school board in support of all of the staff and students within the LVJUSD.

No need to summarize for the next board meeting.

Thank you again.

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Board President Bueno, Trustees, Superintendent Bowers, and Cabinet,

We are Livermore Strong!!! Efforts from the very beginning of this global pandemic have been focused on the health and safety of all staff and students. We endured a district wide shift to distance learning in March 2020, with an initial transition back to hybrid and then full-time in-person learning by the Fall of 2021. With new Covid-19 variants surging in our community, LVJUSD has remained committed to keeping our schools open while continuing with the mitigating measures that have proven successful thus far. We have had exposures resulting in quarantine and isolation of some students, but we have not had to close schools as we navigate this novel coronavirus in an educational setting. This is all attributed to the dedicated efforts of school site administrators and certificated and classified staff, along with the support and guidance of the school board, Superintendent Bowers and senior cabinet.

I have heard some say that this latest variant is “just a cold”. That may be true for some but it is certainly not true for all. It would not be true for those students with compromised immune and respiratory systems, or other medically fragile students for whom a COVID-19 infection could result in hospitalization or death. Yes, for many this might be just a cold but for others it could have very grave consequences.

There has been a small contingent of parents who have been very vocal at recent board meetings in opposition to the current public health guidelines. They do not represent the 13,000 students enrolled. These few parents have continually highlighted district protocols that they disagree with, protocols we review and revise as new guidance comes from Alameda County, CDPH, and the CDC. We continue to adapt to this ever changing guidance. We test staff and students frequently, as needed, so that school and work is not missed. As guidance has evolved, we have evolved along with it. And the one constant that remains is that our mitigating measures are working to slow the spread. Masks work. The vaccines work. While being vaccinated doesn't guarantee you will never get covid-19, vaccines do protect against serious illness, hospitalization, and death. And it bears mentioning that upon Kindergarten entry, every student is required to have a minimum of 5 different vaccines given in 16 doses. No student is permitted to enter Kindergarten without these 16 doses. Why? Because one dose isn't enough for lifelong immunity. It isn't a failure of the vaccine, but simply a boost for the immune system. When pertussis was prevalent in the community a booster was added to the vaccination schedule. And the same with chicken pox. These are not vaccines that have failed but science that has overcome to help keep our community safe and healthy.

So let's do all we can to protect each other, most especially those vulnerable in the community and in our schools. Let's stop being divisive and adversarial. Let's work together for the good of everyone. Let's teach our children resilience and to put others first. Let's lift each other up, not tear each other down. Most importantly, let's continue to be Livermore Strong.