

KTA Letter to the Board & Superintendent - December 8, 2020

We, the teachers and staff of KSD, write to you to express our collective dismay at your irrational decision to continue with plans to increase class sizes, and thus increase the risk of exposure on our campuses, at the same moment that we have been given a clear directive from our Governor and Health Department, that our State and County is ordered to **Shelter In Place** to prevent the spread of a deadly virus, in the midst of a global pandemic- the rates of which are exponentially increasing in our area.

Your decision is not based on logic. We are told that the seven of you do **not believe** that gathering more people in one place decreases the safety of our community. This concept is quite simply, fallacious. It is a **fact** that MORE PEOPLE GATHERING IN ONE INDOOR SPACE DECREASES SAFETY FOR ALL AND CREATES MORE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO COVID-19.

The seven of you having a “different interpretation” of our mutually agreed upon contract is nearly irrelevant at this point. The way to increase safety through this pandemic has been repeatedly echoed by scientists, doctors and elected officials. That you seek to thwart evidence-based, scientifically proven, safety measures is reprehensible. How and why is it that every resident in California has been told that gathering outside of one’s family at this point in the pandemic is considered dangerous, and yet you feel that those rules do not apply to us?

Several of our teachers and staff have children and family members who are currently infected. We have staff members who have lost their parents to the virus. There are so many members of our school community who have lost loved ones to COVID. We know this through our students and their families. These are facts.

The question: “Why are you making our schools and families less safe by violating our agreement?” was posed over and over and over again to Raquel on Friday. You simply cannot contend that bringing more people into enclosed spaces at this time is not creating less safety for all. Forcing teachers and staff, who ARE THE DISTRICT, to present ourselves in person, on campus this Monday, while our State is on LOCKDOWN is preposterous. We have reasonable and vetted remote alternatives for the coming weeks that would keep everyone safer; why aren’t you protecting people by shifting to this model?

This is not just about us, in Kentfield; we each have a duty to the greater community to protect one another to the best of our ability during this harrowing hour. We each have a duty to do our part to keep people out of the hospital as ICU beds are filling. This must be a collective effort of all members in our society. People are dying at the rate of 1:1 minute in our country at this time, and the numbers are rising; this is factual data, not open to interpretation. We are not an island.

Please understand that our teachers and staff want nothing more than to protect our children, and each other. We all want to teach in person and return to normalcy. We are, unfortunately, not living in normal times. As Dr. Willis recently stated, “there is light on the horizon” in terms of

the vaccine. This won't be our reality forever. We implore you to rise above the noise and swiftly stand up for what is right in this moment.