

LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee

Chairperson's Report

April 8, 2021

Hello, colleagues:

Parents and families were informed a few weeks ago that the so-called "reopening" plan for LAUSD secondary school sites would have students in small 'cohort' groups seated in classrooms, in front of a live teacher. We were also informed that this live teacher would not actually be providing instruction to the students seated in front of him or her, but rather, they would be instructing different students, those who remained at home, attending class virtually via Zoom.

Now we hear, contrary to previous assurances that students in middle and high school would be supervised by their regular 'advisory' or 'homeroom' teachers all day, that these students will most likely be shuffled around, perhaps assigned to new advisory teachers they don't even know, with whom they have never worked, and with whom they don't have an existing relationship. I cannot tell you how distressing and frustrating this development was to hear. First the reopening plan misused the term, "hybrid learning," and now the word *hybrid* is meaningless. This plan, referred to by many students as "Zoom in a classroom," is most definitely **not** hybrid learning.

A PAC colleague told me yesterday morning that they had overheard their high-school child's teachers complaining to students about the fact that schools are reopening! They said it sounded as if one or two of those teachers were even trying to blame students and their families for the fact that teachers were being "forced" to go back even though schools, purportedly, are "unsafe." Can you imagine? Statements like these have no place in professional conduct by educators.

With all that to contend with, here are a few things I believe we should try to keep focused on:

- Tell your child (or children) that you are following what's being announced on the reopening plan of their school, that you share their excitement and uncertainty about going on campus, and that you fully support whatever they want to do: Go back or stay home. *Please don't scare them.*
- Stay in touch with other parents and families at your children's schools to make sure they have the most current reopening update, and to dispel any misinformation they may have heard.
- Help other parents make the best choice for themselves. Stand up for your beliefs. **Be a leader.**

At your service,

Paul Robak

Chairperson, 2020-2021
LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee
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