

**Julie Enea**

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**Subject:** FW: Brentwood resident comment for Ad Hoc

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**From:** Mark Goodwin

**Sent:** Thursday, July 9, 2020 1:12 PM

**To:** Julie Enea [.us>](#); Alicia Nuchols

**Cc:** Chris Farnitano

**Subject:** Brentwood resident comment for Ad Hoc

Hi everyone,

Sorry this is coming in late. Brentwood resident who is not able to attend. Comment on item D4.

I am concerned about the decisions being made by the Liberty Union School District with regards to reopening schools.

Contra Costa County has done an excellent job during this pandemic. With restrictions put in place early, and continuing when other counties have opened various venues, our case levels have been very low compared to many other parts of the country. Reopening schools can undo all of the sacrifices made to this point.

In talking with the school board, I have concerns that risk will not be properly managed. They reference county and state guidelines, and seem to take the minimum standard approach. For example, there is mandatory walkthroughs required for all students. All students must come in person to school to pick up schedules, books and take a picture. When they take a picture, they will be required to enter an enclosed space and remove their mask. This seems irresponsible as there are thousands of students that will be involved, all of them entering the same photo room, and all of them removing their masks in public to take pictures. That is on top of scheduling an event where thousands of people will be congregating over a period of four days.

With decisions like this being made, rules need to be set by the adults in the room at the county or state level. We have seen across the country what happens when we allow local, unqualified officials to make health decisions. With the first school event set up to mitigate risk as described above, my confidence level is quite low that our local school board can be counted on to effectively manage risk when schools reopen August 10. My hope is that the county can step in and set the bar high enough for minimum safety standards that school **reopening** will not cause a surge in local cases. Or, even better, make a decision that local schools cannot reopen in person as our local case surge continues to increase.

Chris Goulart