

Office of Board Member (District 6)  
Kelly Gonez  
333 S Beaudry Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

October 13, 2021

LAUSD School Board Member Kelly Gonez,

Thank you for taking the time to come to our board meeting on September 8, 2021 to update us on important news in LAUSD such as the search for a new Superintendent and how everyone worked tirelessly to get students back to full in-person learning on campus. Thank you for explaining that LAUSD offers free COVID testing and COVID vaccination opportunities for students, staff, and families. It was good to hear you answer “with parent consent only/parent consent is required” when asked by an STNC Board Member if students receive vaccines with or without parent consent.

It was troubling to discover the very next day (September 9) the school board held a special meeting to vote on a very controversial topic (mandatory COVID vaccines for students 12+ to learn in person on campus). This decision will impact thousands of families within LAUSD, in particular our community of Sunland-Tujunga. Why did you fail to mention this big vote? That was the opportune time to inform us. There was zero input from our local community due to the rushed vote. We would love for you to return to our future board meetings to give us updates, however we request that you be transparent, forthcoming, and give us all important LAUSD news.

We also request the school board to allow more time for parents to call in for public input during your board meetings. Parents feel like you are dismissing their legitimate concerns. Currently you only allow time for 6 callers (as evidenced on September 9), which is quite small for a district which serves over 600,000 students. We also request that those spots are not taken by Senators, such as Senator Pan, which reduced it to 5 parent speakers. Please allow separate time for politicians or special speakers so the parents can speak.

Thank you for your consideration and response.

Sincerely,

Lydia Grant, President

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