

## WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT

3/15/22

**Alla Lazar 3/15/22 12:01AM**

This letter is on behalf of many Virtual Academy parents & students who are not celebrating the end of the pandemic, instead are in utter panic about the removal of all safety mandates and not comfortable sending our kids into an environment without masks or vaccine mandates. Even though our children may choose to wear a mask per our guidance, being one of the few in masks poses discomfort, embarrassment, possibility of bullying and much higher exposure when everyone around is without a mask. Masks work the best when every single person is wearing one, also every kid is just a kid who will succumb to the peer pressures of removing their only piece of protection against the virus they absolutely may not bring home.

The recent guidance of removal of all mandates and protocols simply because the numbers went down a bit when the pandemic is still thriving, and so many of us are not ready to return to a self-proclaimed "back to normal". We are still scared. We still have circumstances which prevent us from taking even a 1% chance of exposure. Therefore in person school in 2022 at least is not on the table for us. Traditional homeschool / Independent Study is not a tangible option for us either as our kids NEED live instruction as well as classmates and social interaction daily. Especially for the little kids who are completely unable to do any work on their own and will require the parents to quit work in order to support not having live instruction, which in my opinion most parents will never replace a good teacher. Kids need schedules, routines, we can't do this on our own. Please don't abandon those of us who need Virtual Academy.

We all beg you, for the sake of equity, to please keep Virtual Academy in place for another year while we wait for improvements in vaccines and much lower community transmission and avoidance of future variants / surges as our county removes all caution and protocols. For various circumstances we cannot allow ourselves to enter into a high-exposure zones such as school and we really need Virtual Academy for our safety and mental and physical well-being of our kids.

**Concerned Parent from Venture/Virtual Academy 3/15/22 10:12AM**

Board of trustees and District staff,

While I am unhappy about the decision to not continue Virtual Academy next school year and I have to express my frustration about this decision, I also want to raise my concerns about the curriculum you will use for the new revamped independent study program you are evaluating. My concern is specific about curricula such as Edgenuity, K12, Stride, and FuelEd. All the aforementioned curricula are terrible choices that should not be considered to be used next school year. The curricula, in general, is not engaging nor aligned to California standards, and also exposes children to content that presents racial, cultural, disability and gender discrimination, body image shaming, normalizes physical punishment of children, since some of them, specifically Stride use very old textbooks, from the '60s or '70s.

As far as I know, in California parents have a say in the curriculum used in schools, and I ask that you keep parents in the loop, and include us in the decision-making process for the curriculum that will be used next school year for the online program at Venture. We should be invited to presentations the different vendors offer to the district, to have a better understanding of the content that will be offered to the students.

I prefer to keep my identity concealed therefore I am signing this email as a concerned parent from Venture/Virtual Academy.

**Britta Golding 3/15/22 1:30PM**

You are teaching the children in this district the vocabulary which you are trying to eliminate.

Stop talking to them about their feelings and teach them. Talk to them about great literature, they will rise to the topic, math, they will challenge you, great ideas and they will amaze you. Educate them.

You are destroying this generation with your emotions, which you project onto them and which they then learn and think about constantly, because you indicate to them that it is important.

Literature. Math. Science. Stop with the social emotional B.S.

Thank you,

p.s. My children will not be in attendance next Tuesday for their wellness day. I will take them to a museum instead. I will educate them myself.

**Kevin McCarthy 3/15/22 6:57PM**

Good evening, Member of the Board,

My name is Kevin McCarthy, I am the Director Public Sector for MRC/Xerox – we are one of the District’s longtime vendors, and technology partners.

Two years ago, this Board approved three new production print devices for the Duplication Center. Shortly after this approval, the District was shut down for the pandemic and progress stopped on the print shop upgrade.

Since our original proposal, we made a couple changes to the production devices which will further save the District money and will substantially improve the functionality and workflow for Kyle Harvin the duplication center’s only employee.

During the last two years, the Duplication Center was still highly utilized to print student packets, and curriculum, but the fleet is now beyond the expected life and we need to reengage internally to get this back on track.

We look forward to upgrading the Duplication center’s production fleet in the near future. This will provide significant benefits to the entire district as it offers the lowest cost for printing and binding, it will reduce the need for outsources printing, and can save cost over printing at the school sites by utilizing the District’s Digital StoreFront print submission tool.

Thank you for your time today, we appreciate our partnership and are prepared to work with the District as soon as you are ready.

Thank you,