

MANHATTAN BEACH USD – PUBLIC COMMENT – May 19, 2021

(submitted after 1:00 pm)

Name: Kathy Miglin
Agenda Item: B.1 (Closed Session) Public Employee Appointment, Superintendent

I think all the board members should be required to read the two books in question.

Name: Heather Kim
Agenda Item: D.1 (Discussion/Action) MBUSD Schools in 2020-2021

All students can and should be back full-time NOW! Lack of full-time in-person return shortchanges our children and violates Ed code 43504(b) which states: [schools] shall offer in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible." This is unacceptable!

According to this:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/pa/instructionaltimetable.asp>

Grades 9-12 have a minimum of 64,800 minutes/180 days = 360 mins/day.

We are currently at 265 mins/day.

Grades 4-8 should have a minimum of 300 mins/day.

We are currently at 203 mins/day.

PLEASE, Let us know what we may be missing here...

Parents, please send an email to KidsNeedClassrooms@gmail.com to stay up to date on the latest information. Do not stay complacent just because the district is "moving in the right direction" and throwing you some crumbs. Your children have a RIGHT to a quality education and they're getting shafted right now. If the district cannot even do a dry run of a REAL full-time reopening now, do not delude yourselves into thinking it will be successfully implemented in the fall. ⚠️ THIS WAS A FAKE REOPENING ⚠️

Name: Keely Sweeny
Agenda Item: D.2 (Discussion/Action) MBUSD Resolution 2021-14: Commitment to Re-open MBUSD Schools Fully in 2021-22

Members of the board -- I am writing to ask you that when you commit re-opening schools next year, you also commit to ensuring that teachers have the tools they need to do their jobs to the best of their ability, in order to best serve our students. One key tool, we have all learned this past year and a half, is our online LMS, and to be quite frank: GoogleClassroom was the least effective option we could have possibly used this past year.

I have used LMSs in my classrooms for over a decade now, and beta-tested and trained staff in LMS systems in MBUSD since my first year here in 2015, so consider myself to be very adept at learning, navigating, and using these programs. GoogleClassroom cost me *countless* hours this year in assignment set-up time (over an hour per block day of set-up--not including planning). While the simplicity of the format of GoogleClassroom may seem appealing, its simplicity removes many of the features and needs that actually make an LMS useful and functional for secondary teachers, and often makes it less user-friendly and more labor-intensive than it should be.

I ask that you please consider allowing teachers to use either the LMS of their choice or implementing a new LMS next year for secondary teachers.

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Name: angela nelson
Agenda Item: D.3 (Discussion/Action) Novels for use in grades 9 and 10 English

As a working parent with two active teenagers I was NOT given enough time to thoroughly review 4 new proposed books. This is unacceptable and unrealistic. However, thanks to much research I was able to learn more about SLAY and I am appalled that this is what you want my child to "learn" in school. So, you think it's appropriate for a 9th grade CHILD to learn of sexual relationships, detailed and r-rated sexual and physical descriptions? SHAME ON YOU! This normalizes such activity between minors. I also find it very inappropriate that a board member is encouraging students (again, still minors) to voice their support on this. This crosses the line and I find it not only unprofessional but unethical. I am NOT ok with an elected board member behaving in such a manner to persuade children to encourage this type of reading. It is so poorly written that it should not be called literature. And, the biggest question is why the sudden replacement of *Catcher in the Rye*? Can anyone give me a non-biased answer (not opinion) on this one? As a parent I am worried about the future of MBUSD and the direction it is headed? I ask that you kindly listen to parents and do the right thing!

Name: Victor Katz
Agenda Item: D.3 (Discussion/Action) Novels for use in grades 9 and 10 English

I think it's perfect the way it is. Don't change.

Name: Clay Gerrans
Agenda Item: D.3 (Discussion/Action) Novels for use in grades 9 and 10 English

Mira Costa lacks diversity of students, so there's not much exposure to other racial groups (we live in a bubble). A simple and very doable solution to this problem is changing our English classes core reading. Please take this into consideration of how literature, written by someone of a different color or creed, will benefit the youth!

Name: Parth Badhwar
Agenda Item: D.3 (Discussion/Action) Novels for use in grades 9 and 10 English

Dear Board of Trustees,
I stand in firm support of the novels being proposed tonight by our outstanding English department (shoutout to Ms. Sieker, the AP Lit master). I want to take this opportunity to quickly refute a point being made by members of the community who oppose these novels, specifically regarding "Slay". For those who believe that "*Catcher in the Rye*" is any more appropriate than "Slay," I would highly encourage you to read "*Catcher in the Rye*". I understand that it might've been a while since you read it, but it is not one bit more appropriate than "Slay". At this point, it seems like most of the criticisms of these books are based on false or misleading information, so I'd highly encourage this board to approve these proposals immediately.

Thanks,
Parth Badhwar

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(submitted after 1:00 pm)

Name: Gary Brown
Agenda Item: G.6 (Board Business) Revised MBUSD Board Policy 2210, Administrative Discretion
Regarding Board Policy

Manhattan Beach School Board

Subject: Critical Race Theory

May/19/2021

I oppose the implementation of this ideology! The word “theory” is derived from the Greek word, “theoria”, to look or observe, a supposition based merely on “speculation”. Yet, we’re willing to jettison most of what we know to be true, the classic works that have been the bedrock of this country, that have had a profound influence on generation after generation. For what...the cancel culture?? We have now begun the process of replacing classics with new authors like “Slay”, stories filled with sexual language and abuse. These “new” authors aren’t in addition to the classics, they have replaced the classics, apparently by edict?

This reminds me of the “French Revolution”, where the “citizens” threw out all of good as well as the bad, a situation they have still not recovered from!

Have any of you read the entirety of the CRT?? Surely there are things that aren’t true or at least doubtful? This country is “not” racist!

Before you decide to renounce everything, we hold near and dear, before you decide to embark on the indoctrination of our teachers, who will in turn, indoctrinate our children, I suggest a long pause. The teachers and some parents are vulnerable to this coercion for fear of losing their jobs, friends and undue influence on their children,

Sincerely,

Gary Brown resident of Hermosa Beach since 1971