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Districts move quickly to enable schools to reopen ASAP

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But, he said, there is a ton of support in place, they are working on how to move students between schools in a way that is manageable and correct. They have added new platforms, he explained, and are determined to do their best. The hybrid plan will require classes to be reformulated, with some students moving to other teachers, and perhaps to teachers in different schools. Teachers will have Feb. 4 and 5 to work on preparing for the transition.

Board president Liz Daoust, who had opened the meeting with words of gratitude for all the many hours of hard work being put in by the district and as well as the community, responded that "we give each other grace."

Many members of the public who commented on the possibility of school reopening were parents, and all supported the plan to reopen, while at the same time recognizing the enormous tasks ahead.

Many speakers echoed the

words of parent Megan Baldwin, who said, "Whatever the teachers need, we are here for you: give us some marching orders and we will march."

Glorietta teacher Charlie Bulovic cited a recent study out of the UK showing that teachers are 2-3 times more likely to get COVID than any other group. "Starbucks won't help our families," Bulovic commented, "if we get COVID and pass away."

In addition to discussing reopening, the board passed a resolution calling for prioritizing education workers for receiving COVID-19 vaccinations, a measure vigorously supported by Charles Shannon, president of the Orinda Educators Association. The resolution was drafted by board president Daoust and board member Cara Hoxie. Daoust said that she believes that many boards of education in the county will also be using the resolution they drafted.

Also on the agenda was a matter discussed with the board by Carrie Nerheim, Director of Student Services. Nerheim talked about the pos-

sibility of bringing students back on campus in small, stable cohorts of under 16 students for non-educational purposes, such as for students with special needs, if schools don't reopen. And Weiner encouraged consideration of small cohorts for students in seventh and eighth grades, who will not be able to return as early as younger students owing to the greater resemblance of those students to adults in their response to COVID-19, as well as for students who continue in distance learning even after schools reopen.

Extensive plans to reopen have been in place for all the school districts since the fall, and at each of their meetings district board members expressed confidence in reopening safely.

Nicole Smith, speaking on behalf of a large group of Moraga parents at the Jan. 29 MSD special meeting, implored board members to "do right by our kids."

"We are ready," Burns said.

Jennifer Wake contributed to this story.

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