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# COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO MR. YALEY

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Dear Mr. Yaley and Members of the Board,

We appreciate you taking the time to respond to our concerns. However, let us be perfectly clear: this is not a matter of misinformation or lack of understanding. This is a matter of doing what is right. To suggest that we lack clarity on the situation is condescending and reflects a broader disregard for the voices of students, parents, teachers, and staff alike. As members of the Francis Parker community, we ask that you be forthright and honest about the situation. We are not just “saddened by [Mr. Harington’s] decision to resign;” we are outraged and heartbroken that he, and several other teachers who you fail to mention, were forced to make a decision between the safety of their family and the job they hold so dear. To put it bluntly, your decision is forcing teachers to resign. Your decision to ignore our concerns and abandon our teachers undermines the integrity of our school. This policy is unconscionable, unfair, and outright wrong. As head of school, we implore you to heed the collective voice of your community: **our teachers are not disposable.**

With respect to the latter portion of your letter, we commend your efforts to comply with CDC-recommended guidelines. However, these protocols are only the minimum to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As cases continue to surge nationwide and in San Diego county, we believe the school must take every necessary measure to protect the wellbeing of our valued faculty and their families. You cannot say with all honesty that your administration has “analyzed [teachers’] situations with extreme attention, consideration, and compassion” when you continue to ignore our voice and ask our beloved teachers to jeopardize the safety of their families. It is also worth mentioning that students and administrators, such as yourself, are not being forced to jeopardize their safety in the same way teachers are.

When it comes to protecting the teachers of our community, we recognize that in-person classes are a luxury, not a necessity. As students, we are acutely aware that virtual learning is not optimal for our emotional, educational, and social well-being. Trust us; we miss eating lunch with our friends, engaging in meaningful class discussions, meeting with teachers in-person, and so much more. However, we also stand firm in our

belief that the health and livelihood of teachers, particularly those with complicating health conditions, must take precedence over our desire to learn in-person.

Lastly, despite your justification (to provide more in-person learning) for this disastrous change in policy, it is important to remember that the “blended model” elected by the school requires that half of all classes remain virtual regardless of whether every teacher returns to campus (see Parker’s policy [here](#)). So let's be honest – this policy is not about ensuring the benefits of on-campus learning, but rather it endangers the most vulnerable and high-risk members of our community.

We will always support our teachers, just as they have always done for us. We ask that you do the same. Please hold compassion and respect for our teachers by listening to our concerns.

Respectfully,

Parker Students for Teachers

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