

WLASNC Board FY 2020-2021

Jamie Keeton - Chair/ At Large Rep.
vacant - Vice Chair/ Business Rep.
Jay Handal - Treasurer/ Organizational Rep.
Dylan Wright- Secretary/ At Large Rep.

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Teri Temme - At Large Rep.
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Danilo Torro - Business Rep.
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City Council, Mayor, LAUSD

Re: Re-opening of elementary schools and special-needs classes

To the City,

At the Jan. 27, 2021, meeting of the West Los Angeles Sawtelle N.C., the Board of Directors voted 9-0-0, to support prioritizing the re-opening of elementary schools and special-needs classes ahead of other services that are currently allowed to be open, and authorize the Chair to submit Community Impact Statements in the future.

Findings and justifications:

1. Schools provide “essential academic and social-emotional learning” environments, and a broader array of resources including “physical, mental health, and therapeutic services.
2. School closures impede learning and compound inequities, disproportionately affecting disadvantaged children²²; and particularly disadvantaged are students who are at a young age, have special needs, or are from underprivileged households.
3. Many states and countries have successfully prioritized the opening of schools over businesses, instead of the other way around.
4. Federal, State and local governments can offer stipends, grants, and loans to businesses and employees who may be forced to close, however the same government bodies cannot offer redress to students for lost opportunities and benefits derived from education.
5. Safe and consistently open schools are essential for many parents and guardians ... to reenter the workforce, and forcing working parents into full time childcare is neither fair nor sustainable.
6. The health of all students, staff and teachers must be protected, the federal government and State of California must provide school districts with the resources needed for the safe reopening of schools and to contain outbreaks (should they occur) including the prioritization of school staff and teachers in vaccine distribution.

Ex parte communications: None disclosed by any committee members.

Disclosures and conflicts of interest: None disclosed by any committee members.

To government agencies: Only the Chair and designated Boardmembers may testify to public agencies on behalf of the West L.A. Sawtelle NC. The Board requests that the Council Office and private/non-profit entities do not testify or speculate on behalf of the NC.

/s/ Jamie L. Keeton

Jamie L. Keeton, Chair WLASNC

cc: Len Nguyen, Ben LaZebnik, Council District #11 (Len.Nguyen@LACity.org, Ben.LaZebnik@LACity.org)