

**From:** [Pinecrest PTO](#)  
**To:** [SPCSA Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Board Meeting 8/14/20  
**Date:** Friday, August 14, 2020 8:56:09 AM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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The Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada Parent Teacher Organization has some concerns about the Reopening Plans and In Person Learning proposition for the 2020-2021 school year being discussed today. Our concerns stem from a few main factors, which we will discuss in further detail.

The reopening plan, as presented by Ms. Rebecca Feiden does not allow Pinecrest to be inclusive of the Washoe County School District (WCSD) population. One of the opening factors of our charter was to make sure Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada was able to serve a higher percentage of students who qualify for FREE or Reduced-Price Lunch, students who are English Learners, and students with IEP or Special Needs Services. Geographically with our student body we were able to reach a vast number of students in these areas. Zip codes that are statistically in these categories make up around 30-40% of our student body. Not being able to open alongside with the WCSD guidelines would cause major inequity within the academic needs of these communities and the in-person resources we can provide them. Thus, pushing a portion of these students back into the school district. For the 2020-2021 school year, the enrollment process was done via weighted lottery. This weighted lottery also helped us give priority enrollment for those in need students. Through this process we have been able to reach considerable need in our neighboring Indian and Paiute Colonies. Offering an advanced charter education option directly in these communities is a huge opportunity that makes up close to 40% of our zipcode. We fear that the students from the lower income areas will have no other option but to return to Washoe County School District.

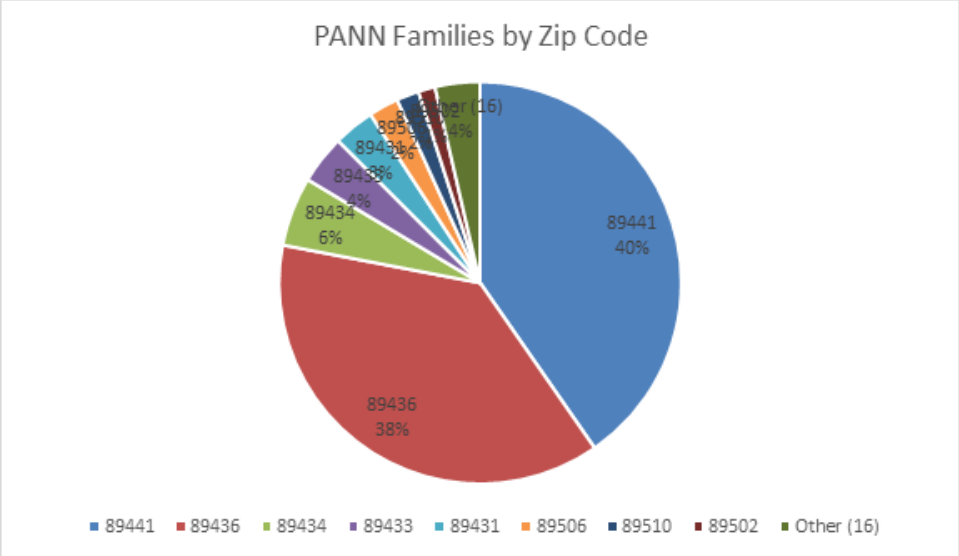
Upon completion of the weighted lottery, Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada sent out a parent survey, asking them about school re-opening, and what parents would like to see. Parent survey responses came back with 75% wanting full-time instruction, 22.4% wanting hybrid instruction. Top concerns of the parents surveyed were: (1) 74%- Students falling behind in academic progress due to loss of instructional time, (2) 51%- Student lack of socialization, (3) 50%- Student mental health being negatively affected by not returning to a traditional classroom, and (4) 26%- Students needing child care if school does not return to traditional schedule. Due to current Nevada regulations, Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada decided to roll out a hybrid model. The school has offered our families a choice in their cohort preference. Blue and Gold cohort being hybrid education, and Gray cohort being a full-distance learning option. So far, we have about 10% of our students enrolled voluntarily into our full-distance cohort option. This considerably reduces our on-site students and allows our students to follow social distancing guidelines comfortably. If a full distance learning schedule were implemented, while WCSD was going back full time, we fear that we would not be able to sustain an inclusive environment.

One of the significant factors of a charter school's success is the ability to establish a sense of community. Being already at a disadvantage over a regular school year, our PANN leadership team has taken considerable amounts of measures to ensure the safety of our students. Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada's opening plan follows all of Governor Sisolak's guidelines. Beyond this we can ensure six feet of social distance over those new directives put into place via Emergency Directive 028. The current Nevada regulations were dropped to three feet. Additionally, all students will be off campus on Wednesday to allow for a deep cleaning between the two different hybrid cohort. Lastly, the Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada PTO is working on raising funds to buy each classroom an air scrubber, which will allow for a majority of germs to be killed within 10 minutes of operations. We are one of the only schools in Washoe County that will have this technology. We feel that we can safely bring back students and provide for safe working conditions for the Pinecrest Staff.

Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada’s Board is composed of professionals in medicine, social psychology, and first responders. The school has created a detailed safety plan for reopening, which includes use of facemasks by all individuals entering the school. We will maintain a six foot social distance and we will never have more than fifty people in a space, at any given time. Pinecrest has technology that allows for streamlined drop offs and pickups. There will also be an app for parents to use to submit daily health screenings, prior to students entering the school. Additionally, the school offer our families Teladoc services through Hazel Health. We feel that we can provide a safe place for students to return to.

Lastly, we ask that you please consider the type of data that Washoe County is able to provide to the population. In Washoe County, we have the advantage of receiving our COVID-19 testing information by zip code. This is a very important factor in our education because it allows us to see where the hot spots are in our community. Our PTO was able to pull the zip codes of 664 enrolled students and separate them by registered zip code, with over 75% of the students residing in the 89441 and 89436 zip codes. The percentages of active cases in the 89441 zip code is only 0.11% (or 12 active cases over a population of 11,347) and 0.19% in the 89436 zip code (or 78 cases over a population of 41,427). Additionally, there has only been 99 cases of COVID-19 in the school zip code of 89441 since the virus first hit. Charts can be referenced below:

The Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada PTO asks your board if you would please consider all these factors before voting today. We strive to be inclusive and will be a safe place for students to return.



Direct comparison of our chart with the COVID-19 Active Cases by Zip Code gives us a true risk assessment of our school community. As of August 13, 2020, our Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada has the following active case percentages.

Zip Code	Number of Students	Percentage of students per zip code	Percentage of Active Cases in entire zip code	Number of Active Cases in entire zip code	Total Population by zip code
89441	268	40%	0.11%	12	11,347
89436	250	38%	0.19%	78	41,427
89434	37	6%	0.15%	68	25,292
89433	26	4%	0.27%	45	16,728

89431	22	3%	0.38%	140	37,014
89506	16	3%	0.27%	99	36,278
89510	12	2%	0.06%	1	1,622
89502	9	2%	0.23%	108	46,907

**Chalene Lemons**

President

