

From: July 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting-Public Comment
To: Meeting Info
Subject: [External] July 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting-Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:27:54 PM

STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION



Kristen Belt _____ Item # ____

Item Name: Info Hearing – Split Roll Initiative

Meeting Date: 7/23/20 Minutes Exhibit #: 7.95

PUBLIC COMMENT

Name: Kristen Belt

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Phone:

Agenda Item(s):

7. Public Comment

Comment:

I have 2 kids in the Oakland Public School District. I have been shocked over the last 5 years by the lack of resources available in public schools. I have watched the most amazing, skillful teachers struggle to give the kids the education they need to succeed in this world. The high student-teacher ratios, the lack of resource professionals available to help those with even the most simple to solve challenges, the inability to do art projects due to a lack of supplies, the inability to provide fresh fruits and vegetables at lunch, and during this last semester, the inability to teach any new material for 3 months due to the equity concern that some students may not have access to tools to learn at home- these are just a few examples of the atrocity happening in our public schools. I am fortunate to live in a neighborhood with a well funded parent-teacher group that has been able to provide aides in the classroom, extra supplies, and teachers for art and music. But of course the school 3 blocks away has none of that because asking the parents to contribute would be too large a financial burden for most families. California is the 5th largest economy in the WORLD and we are 3rd from the bottom in spending on schools (per capita). This is absurd and inexcusable position to be in. Significant efforts have been made for years to reform the commercial portion of Prop 13 and special interests have always succeeded in warping the message. Education is EVERYTHING! In the long term, it is one of the most significant levers that the government has to make SUSTAINABLE change towards breaking cycles of poverty, and the crime rates and health crises associated with it. In the short term, schools MUST be refuges for all our children. Please support this legislation and make a bold leap forward for our future!