

Wednesday, March 17, 2004, Fresno Bee - Letter to the Editor

'Fix the problem'

At its meeting March 10, the Fresno Unified School District Board of Trustees did not vote to start our children's school year after Labor Day or even at the end of August. This would have saved the district more than half-a-million dollars in utilities by not running the air-conditioning systems on the hottest days of the year.

Our children need to start school when the air quality is better. June vs. August for better air quality? June wins hands down. The No. 1 reason for absenteeism in Fresno Unified is asthma, yet four out of seven board members ignored the facts about the ozone levels that are highest in August and much better in June. Bad ozone is the hardest on small children and the elderly.

Air quality coupled with cuts to our music departments and threats of taking our nurses and librarians -- why is there any question of what the right choice would be? The Fresno Unified board did not make the right choice for our children. We need to find qualified people to run for the board in the Hoover, Sunnyside, Roosevelt and Fresno high school areas. We need to fix the problems in this troubled school district.

Carrie Kulewski, Fresno