

EUREKA DAY

draft 5.2

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Commissioned by Aurora Theatre Company, Berkeley, CA

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The one saith, This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living.

And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.

And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.

- Kings 3:23

Dr. Bob writes "This is an important vaccine from a public health standpoint, but it's not critical from an individual point of view." In order for that to make sense, one must believe that individuals are not part of the public.

- On Immunity, Eula Bliss

characters

DON	late forties, head of school. A supplicant. White.
SUZANNE	late forties, a life coach. Mother of Arlo, Tompkins, Juniper, and Walden. A true believer. White.
MEIKO	late thirties, a landscape architect. A single mother by choice, of Olivia. A rationalizer. Except in scene 3, she is always knitting. Hapa.
ELI	mid thirties, a hobbyist: expert pickler, competitive rock climber, sold his startup six years ago and is now a manager of family wealth. Father of Tobias. A utilitarian. White.
CARINA	late thirties, an affordable housing advocate. Mother of Victor. An optimist. African-American.
WINTER	thirties to fifties, a parent, any gender (walk-on role with no lines). A mystery.

place

The Eureka Day School, Berkeley, California

time

September, 2017

text

The line breaks, capitalizations, and punctuation are primarily a guide to the character's thought, but also inform the rhythm of the line. A line break may variously be a self-interruption, a self-correction, a clarification, a search for the right word, a way to add emphasis, or simply the next thought in a progression. You can feel it out.

An “/” marks the point of interruption.

Words in [] are implied but not spoken.

Parallel columns are simultaneous conversations.

video

In scene 2, the production team may add more “likes” and emoticons as they feel is appropriate.

1.

An elementary school library. The books are divided into three sections: FICTION, NON-FICTION and SOCIAL JUSTICE. Posters adorn the walls: "Black Lives Matter", "We Are the Resistance", "Solidarity with Standing Rock", "Berkeley Stands United Against Hate" etc, Bordering the room is the Activist Alphabet.

DON, ELI, MEIKO, SUZANNE and CARINA sit in adult-sized chairs around a square of child-sized tables that have been pushed together. A plate of half-eaten scones sits at the center.

SUZANNE

Personally no
I don't find it offensive
the term *itself* is not offensive

ELI

it's descriptive

SUZANNE

but when you contextualize it in that *way*

ELI

I guess I'm not totally clear what other context we would be [putting it in]

MEIKO

I think she's saying
I'm not putting words in your mouth
she's saying it's not *offensive*
but we want to make it absolutely clear that it's optional
that it's not
Either
Or

SUZANNE

I find
the best way not to put words in someone's mouth is not to put words in their mouth

DON

okay okay

SUZANNE

(*tiny beat*)
I said the term *itself* is not offensive

but that the inclusion of the term on this list is
I think
inappropriate
and that some people would
with good reason

find its inclusion offensive

ELI

I just wonder though
by leaving it off

is it possible some people would find its *absence* offensive?

MEIKO

you're saying
that it could be a sort of
negation
of people's experience?

ELI

right
if our core operating principle here is that everyone should
Feel Seen
by this community

SUZANNE

There's no benefit in Feeling Seen if you're simultaneously being *Othered*

A little moment.

DON

Carina did you want to
do you want to offer anything?

CARINA

oh I
I'm happy to defer
I don't know that I've really formed a strong [opinion]

DON

that's perfectly all right
even just your gut instinct is [welcomed]
this is an Open Room
we *welcome* your unique perspective

CARINA

okay
uhhhh
thank you

will you just
can you remind me what the dropdown menu currently says?

ELI

surrrrrrrrrre

(pulling it up on his phone)

okay it's

the list is alphabetical just fyi

African-American or Black

East Asian Heritage

European Heritage or White

First Nations comma Indigenous and Aboriginal comma Native American Heritage

Latinx or Chicanx Heritage

Middle Eastern or Arab comma West Asian Heritage

Multiracial

Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian Heritage

South Asian Heritage

Southeast Asian Heritage

and

Other

(a little beat)

CARINA

that seems pretty

doesn't it?

it strikes me as

comprehensive?

SUZANNE

a lot of thought went into it

MEIKO

but *also*

maybe we do want to

I mean why not?

err on the side of

of *more* inclusivity

right?

ELI

exactly

why not allow for the option of

if that's how someone identifies?

SUZANNE

so

the *reason* not to Eli is

and

it is possible that because of my sister's children
I may have some deeper learning around this issue than you do
which is why
I feel *very* strongly
the term Transracial Adoptee is [not appropriate]

the fact that you are adopted does not *change* your/ [race]

MEIKO

I don't think anyone's saying that

SUZANNE

whereas what that term *is*
is a way to think about our Cultural Identity/
and also to think about how it impacts how our racial identity is formulated
and created over time

MEIKO

suresuresure

CARINA

so that makes [sense]
that actually sounds right to me

A mini-beat.

ELI

I wonder if there's a better frame for this conversation which is
who is the dropdown menu for?

DON

for admissions

ELI

no no no okay

obviously

sure

but also

there's the perception of our community as we're viewed from the outside
say a picture on the website or in a brochure
of course people are gonna make certain assumptions
because we live in a racist society that assumes race as a primary lens

or

is this about how we Perceive Ourselves

SUZANNE

if you are pulled over by the police they don't

they don't *ask* you if you were adopted

MEIKO

oh that's a good

that's a really a good [point]

so it's more
From The Inside Out

MEIKO
so in that sense
the starting point is identity

ELI
right right right

CARINA
but isn't
I'm sorry tell me if I'm misunderstanding
isn't Suzanne's point
and I think I agree?
that we'd be conflating two very different/ [things]

ELI
no no no
it's a question of *framing*

SUZANNE
I think that's right Carina thank you

and *thank you*
for bringing that perspective

DON
it sounds like there's a lot to unpack here

A moment. They unpack.

ELI
I do wonder though
this request came from a parent
with certain Point of View
and a certain Life Experience
which is no way to devalue *your* Life Experience Suzanne
but if we're trying to make sure we're Holding Space for

SUZANNE
just because one family wants something doesn't make it the right for the whole community
this is why we have Core Values
because it's always tempting to accommodate the squeaky wheel

ELI
right it is
that's what we're/ all [trying to to deal with]

SUZANNE

and like you said Eli it's a question of framing
and just for me personally
putting that term on this list is not
is *not* Making Positive Change in the World
in fact it's the very opposite

A moment.

DON

well I don't want to
I'm not *advocating*

but it might be worth reflecting back to a discussion we had?
I think about two years ago
there was a family that was uncomfortable selecting "white"
and wanted to have "Jewish" as an option

MEIKO

(*remembering*)
mmmmmmmm

DON

and my
my Probably Flawed recollection is that
Eli
you were very adamant that

SUZANNE

that's right
you said you said
that's not what this list is FOR

A small moment.

ELI

huuuuh

okay yeah
yeah that's
clarifying

thanks Don

MEIKO

did they
Carina

do you know if they had that option at the school where you were [last enrolled]

CARINA

I don't [know]
you know I don't remember
I don't believe so

ELI

where was that?

CARINA

the uh
the Montessori school on Gilman?

ELI

ahh

CARINA

it's a lovely [place]
and we could walk from our house but
it just wasn't a good fit

SUZANNE

mmmmmmm

CARINA

and you know my friend Margaret Cohen says
you can always spot a Eureka Day kid because
at soccer games
they're the ones who cheer when the other team scores

MEIKO

that's so true

CARINA

so we just really love the idea of our son being in a place where there's
such a strong/ Social Justice Component?

DON

oh Carina
not sure if anyone mentioned
at these meetings
we make every effort to
wherever possible

to only use gender neutral pronouns when referring to a student

CARINA

oh okay great

ELI

it's a little awkward at first

CARINA

no I think that's wonderful

DON

we're not assuming you don't know your own child's Preferred Gender Pronoun

SUZANNE

it's more about Instilling The Habit

CARNIA

sure

DON

we've found that that
the culture we create here
in this room

As the executive committee
truly does trickle down

to the staff and the teachers and the parents

MEIKO

it does it really does

DON

and we also want to make sure we have a range of viewpoints represented
which is why we have this floating spot
did Suzanne explain this to you?

SUZANNE

more or less

DON

one position on the Executive Committee is always held for a new parent

ELI

so we don't get too
calcified in our thinking

CARINA

well thank you
I'm honored to uh

DON
great

I apologize I threw us completely off track

ELI
no no
it's fine Don
I
I feel *heard*

we can move forward

DON
beautiful

so
there's no need to alter the admissions form at this time?

MEIKO
(*nod/ shrugs*)

DON
Carina?

CARINA
oh sure yeah
I'll uh
I Move that we don't change the dropdown menu on the admissions form

They all look at CARINA strangely.

all in favor?

A beat.

DON
I'm so sorry we really should have explained
we don't operate like some other [boards]
we don't take Board Votes

CARINA
oh

SUZANNE
we only make decisions by consensus

CARINA

got it

MIEKO

it can sometimes lead to some *very* long meetings

DON

but we always have snacks

ELI

a little known fact:

the secret to consensus?

scones

MEIKO

it's so true

SUZANNE

and this way we can be sure no one's viewpoint gets

Stampeded

CARINA

oh okay

great

well um

in that case

I uh

I concede

SUZANNE

wonderful

DON

great

moving on

so this last item is

I don't think we need to make too big a deal out of this but

I was contacted by a friend who's the

the head of school at Sun Valley Day in Sebastopol

and apparently they've had a student there who's been diagnosed with um

Mumps

ELI

whoa

DON

so I thought it might be wise just to
to give everyone a heads-up
and explain what the procedures are
just on the off chance
and this is some uh
I pulled this language off the Alameda County Health Department website
and it's just
why don't I just read it to you

(He reads from a piece of paper:)

In the event that a student at your school is diagnosed with one of the following diseases,
any child who has not received the appropriate vaccine may be excluded from school until
such time as it is determined that he or she is no longer at risk of exposure. During this
period, it would be requested that your son or daughter remain quarantined at home.

And then there's a list of um [diseases], and a recommended vaccination schedule

A beat.

ELI
well
that's a little intense

SUZANNE
can I see it?

DON hands her the note. She starts reading it.

CARINA
I'm sorry I don't totally understand
didn't they just pass a law
doesn't every student *have* to be [vaccinated]

MEIKO
there's a grace period

CARINA
oh

SUZANNE
and it's completely unconstitutional

MEIKO
so as long as you had your waiver on file before January 1st you're grandfathered in till 7th
grade

DON
well

Be that as it may
I thought it was important to
first of all
to hear from you

ELI
how many students are we talking about here Don

DON
I don't have exact figures
But I think we can say
we can safely say
it's quite a few

SUZANNE
can I
I'm sorry
can I just voice a concern with this note?

ELI reaches out for the letter, and SUZANNE passes it to him.

DON
um
of course

SUZANNE
it's just
the way it's being framed?
I'd feel much more comfortable if we're able to convey
that we're Passing On this message
but that this message is not the school's message

ELI
it is very gendered
"your son or daughter"
maybe you can change it to just say "your child"?

SUZANNE
well that too
but also
of course we would do whatever we are obligated to do legally
but
We need to be very thoughtful about how we
because this is a very
for many people I think
a very private
a very personal issue

ELI

no

totally totally

SUZANNE

we don't want anyone to feel judged
or shamed

ELI

I think it's fine

I think people get it

I mean it's clearly written by

it's not like *Don's* writing this note

SUZANNE

look

if we decide

if our stance is

you know

the school is going to be a resource to direct people to

to different kinds of information so they can make informed decisions

that would be one thing

but to just send that to everyone

I mean they receive this official-sounding letter and

CARINA

but wouldn't it actually just be like

an Official Letter

SUZANNE

That's what I'm saying

DON

Hmmmmmm

this is a very

a very good

a very *important*

conversation

and I think you're right Suzanne

that we want to be

sensitive

about how we approach this

and wouldn't want to be perceived as *adjudicating* or

any more than we would for
religion or
political affiliation or
dietary preferences

but this is just a document we're passing on
there's no *judgment*

SUZANNE
well to me Don
What you've just said is a little like
it's like you're saying
We welcome all religions.
Now here's your copy of the New Testament.

DON
That's
a little uh

is it?

MEIKO
I can see that

ELI
right right right
is this what you're saying Suzanne?
that even if it's a message that we perceive as Value Neutral
we have to try to be cognizant of the way it's going to be received by Individual Parents
and maybe try/ to tailor that [message]

CARINA
I'm sorry to [interrupt]
shouldn't the message the same regardless of/ what people [think]

SUZANNE
I think that's right
I think
I'm sorry Eli
But I think she's right

because our responsibility in this room is not actually first
as Individual Parents
it's first
as Custodians of the School

the question isn't
what do I think is right as a parent
it's
what do I think is best for our community?

right Carina?

CARINA
I mean
no yeah of course

MEIKO
so it's just

reiterating the principle of:
I may not agree with your Point of View
but I deeply respect your right to *hold* that Point of View

ELI
that's what I was saying

DON
so maybe it's
maybe we say also say something along the lines of
I'm just spitballing here

that we are a school of *choice* and a community of *intention*
and we come from diverse backgrounds and perspectives
but that we are all in this together
and that
that it's our diversity which is the source of our strength

ELI
beautiful

SUZANNE
and then at the bottom we could also include links to resources
and say
here is some of the broad array of viewpoints in our community

I could point people to some very good websites

DON
great great

does that
would that work for you Carina?

CARINA
um I'm not
I'm not

to be honest I'm not sure I'm a hundred percent comfortable with this?

SUZANNE
okay
that's fine

can you
are you able to articulate what it is that's
making you uncomfortable?

CARINA
it's just
if we're saying
here's what the Health Department says
and then
here's something that refutes that

isn't that
isn't that taking a position too

isn't our position then
don't listen to the health department

SUZANNE
oh I don't think so

DON
okay
okay so
what I'm hearing/ is that

ELI
oh oh oh
sorry to [interrupt]

I'm just thinking
this is such a meaty [issue]
there's so much here
and we're always talking about looking for opportunities to
to showcase

to put our Values Into Action
so maybe *this*
should be the topic for this semester's Community Activated Conversation

DON
hmmm

CARINA
what's that?

DON
it's a
it's a bit like Town Hall
but more participatory
we try to do it at least twice a year

MEIKO
like last year we had this 8th grade production of Peter Pan
and there were some
we discovered
Very Strong Feelings

ELI
aside from the extremely problematic portrayal of Native Americans
there's actually whole host of colonialist issues
that I for one had been completely blind to
so

DON
and the CAC was really
it was a very thoughtful discussion and there were some great breakout sessions
and we ended up
We came to
what I thought was a very [good agreement]
we set the production in Outer Space
and that really solved
I think everybody ended up feeling really good about that

SUZANNE
it's a wonderful idea Eli

ELI
thank you

DON
it could be a pretty amazing opportunity I think
to demonstrate for the students

to see how we can come together as a community
and wrestle with a difficult issue

SUZANNE

and if we did that
I would be willing to
would this work for you Carina
Don sends that note out As Is
and
we let everyone know that before they rush into anything
in the next week or so we'll have a Community Activated Conversation
so that we can really
delve into

CARINA

yeah no that's
great
that sounds great

ELI

perfect

DON

you know it's like Sylvia Culman – she was the first board president before Suzanne
she used to always say
if consensus was easy, everyone would do it

SUZANNE

it's so true

A tiny moment of basking in their achievement.

DON

so
that's all of our official business
unless anyone has anything else they'd like to bring forward?

DON waits in silence for about ten seconds, making eye contact with each person after the other. CARINA is not 100% certain what's going on.

DON

great

now as some of you know
I always like to close out our first meeting of the year with a few lines from Rumi

if you'll indulge me

SUZANNE
always Don

He pulls out a dog-eared book.

DON
(reading)
Load the ship and set out
No one knows for certain whether a vessel will sink or reach the harbor
Cautious people say
I'll do nothing until I can be sure
Merchants know better
If you do nothing, you lose nothing
Don't be one of those merchants who won't risk the ocean

A moment. They contemplate.

DON
did you have anything you wanted to add Suzanne?

SUZANNE
no thank you
that was beautiful Don

Another moment. CARINA looks around, waiting for this to be over.

After a bit:

CARINA
so I'm sorry I actually really need to [get going]
this was *lovely*
thank you all so much but I
I didn't think we'd run so late

ELI
better get used to it

SUZANNE
no of course
I'll walk you out

CARINA
(gathering her things)
thanks

those scones were *amazing*
where are they from

SUZANNE

and it's actually an incredible story
the woman who runs the place
she was a very
she was this high level theoretical physicist
you know quantum theory or something
got into a terrible car accident
and could just
could No Longer Do Math
there was some brain damage and
I don't know Other Trauma

CARINA

that's awful

SUZANNE

and then one day she was watching a
cooking show or something
and that
whatever part of her brain was previously
able to hold
you know
these incredibly large scale equations was
now able to
instead
to grasp *baking*
in a similarly complex way
(*they've exited, these lines from off*)
and so she just started coming up with the
most amazing recipes

(*SUZANNE and CARINA are off.*)

DON

that'd be nice

you know how to set the alarm?

ELI

of course

DON

ELI starts to clear the chairs. Don helps him.

MEIKO checks her phone, sends a text.

ELI

Don

why don't you take off
we'll clean up here

DON

oh

are you sure?

MEIKO

beginning of the year
you must have a ton on your plate

DON

well if I'm being honest
I do have the Kilimanjaro of email
mountains awaiting me

ELI

we should really hire you an email Sherpa

okay well
thank you Eli
that's so kind

ELI
it's nothing

*DON exits. MEIKO rearranges the tables ELI stacks the chairs and carries them out.
A moment.*

He reenters.

ELI
so

Rebecca's in Pittsburgh tonight

MEIKO
who's with Tobias?

ELI
the babysitter

MEIKO
and won't the babysitter think it's strange if you bring some random woman home

ELI
she's very progressive
we met her at Burning Man

ELI pulls her towards him.

MEIKO
did you feel like Suzanne was being particularly condescending to me?

ELI
when

MEIKO
the best way not to put words in my mouth

ELI
that's just her way of showing love
she cares about you enough to put you in your place

MEIKO
(eye roll)

ELI
as do I

They kiss.

MEIKO
I shouldn't
Olivia's
she's got a little fever

I mean my mom's with her
they're *fine*
but she
you know
I'm sure she'll be asking for mommy

ELI
oh poor thing

there's something going around
it's the change of season

MEIKO
she'll be better by tomorrow
she's *resilient*

ELI
just like her mother

Another kiss.

MEIKO
when does Rebecca get back?

ELI
not till Sunday

A little moment.

MEIKO
you know when I saw her at the Back to School thing she was very
I don't know
crisp

ELI
Oh she was just exhausted
she'd been on a plane all day

MEIKO

it's not weird for her to

ELI

no no she thinks you're great

She starts to gather her things.

ELI

so maybe Saturday?

if Olivia's feeling better?

you could bring her over for a playdate

Olivia and Tobias could play

and you and I could

play

MEIKO

do you have any good games?

ELI

the best

MEIKO

we'll see

ELI

just make sure she gets lots of Vitamin C

and zinc

I'm big believer in zinc

Lights.

2.

The Library

SUZANNE, MEIKO, DON, and CARINA sit a semi-circle of five chairs.

In front of them is a table with a small camera and conference call-type microphone. ELI is kneeling in front of the table, futz'ing with the laptop and camera.

Projected we see the EUREKA DAY Facebook Page.

Anytime there's a comment or like, it's accompanied by a notification "DING" sound.

DON

are we?

how close are we?

For a moment the projection of them on Facebook Live appears on the screen, the cuts out.

ELI

oh no I've

argggg

I thought I

I had it but

MEIKO

you want me to take a look?

ELI

oh god yes please

MEIKO hops down, crosses over to him.

DON

(leaning forward into the mic)

thanks so much for your patience everyone
we're gonna be ready to go in just a minute

ELI

they can see you but they can't hear you

DON

ah

ELI

yet

DON

got it

DON holds up a finger, points to his watch, smiles. Tries to communicate wordlessly to "wait just a moment".

MEIKO

(examining a connector cable)

what's the

SUZANNE watches them work. CARINA, bored, reaches out and pulls a book off the shelf next to her and thumbs through it.

ELI

I had it just for a

I had it for a second and then it

(They plug and unplug a wire. Examine it. Maybe lift up the laptop.

DON hovers.)

MEIKO

Are you sure this is the right [adaptor]?

SUZANNE notices her.

ELI
it's the same one I use for the projector at home

MEIKO
maybe it's something under the settings
do you have it switched to dual screen?

MEIKO reaches and over and clicks a few things on the computer. On the projections, we can see her changing a setting.

ELI huddles close to her. Has a hand on her lower back.

ELI
that was how I had it before
but now it won't recognize the mic

(She shifts away from him. Give his a "there's people watching" look.

She clicks a few more things.

DON
is there anything I can [do?]

ELI
no no we're good

MEIKO
I think we should
have you tried restarting it?

SUZANNE
that's my book

CARINA
oh
sorry

SUZANNE
no no you're welcome to it
it's on infinite-term loan to the school
it was one of Tompkins' favorites

CARINA
yeah we
We loved it too

what grade is your uh [son]
Tompkins in?

SUZANNE
oh no Tompkins is in uh
in high school now
my oldest

CARINA
oh

SUZANNE
yeah when the
when we first got a building
not this building

ELI
that was my next [move]
I was just about to

MEIKO shuts it down.

ELI, MEIKO and DON watch it shut down, reboot.

we used to be in an old church
and there was a room designated as “library”
but we had no books and no money to buy books
so all of us
there were about fifteen families
we loaned all our books
everything age appropriate
Tropic of Cancer, Our Bodies Ourselves those I still have
But everything else
which was a little sad at first
being home with no books
but also such a great practice to teach our kids
you know *where does this object matter most?*
on a shelf in our house?
OR
in a place where someone else could Make Use?

CARINA
that’s lovely

SUZANNE
even now
we buy a new book
read it at home
and as soon as we’re done
we bring it to the school
pretty much this whole bookshelf was ours

CARINA
wow

ELI
(into the mic)
hello hello?

(he sees an indication it works)

(to MEIKO)

you're magic

(MEIKO returns to her seat)

OKAY!

we should be good to go now

DON

wonderful!

(addressing the camera)

hi everyone

I want to begin by/ just extending my

ELI

oh crap

DON

what?

ELI

I think I'm

now I'm not online

DON

why don't we just

maybe we should do this as a conference call?

ELI

SUZANNE and CARINA turn their attention to the camera.

SUZANNE

(to CARINA)

this is why hate technology

I used to

for a while I would meet with clients over Skype

no no no just give me a [minute]

(MEIKO comes back to the computer.)

MEIKO

is it uh

(she clicks through some settings)

oh you know what
maybe we should try restarting *before*
connecting to the projector

ELI

riiiight

MEIKO

Because the projectors also trying to get online

ELI

right right right

He shuts down again. Restarts. They watch.

DON flips through some notes.

but

it became utterly

not just the

the lack of intimate connection

but

they'd book an hour and then we'd spend half of the time trying

to get the thing to work

it was nauseating

I just won't do it anymore

CARINA

it's the worst

SUZANNE

I did have one

I will make an exception if

she had cancer and during her chemo

and she was out in Vallejo so of course I couldn't go to her

CARINA

I wouldn't think

when you're recovering from cancer

I wouldn't think

that's a time you'd need a

Career Counselor

SUZANNE

oh no

that's when it can be the most valuable

for certain people

CARINA

right

SUZANNE

I hope you're feeling empowered in these [meetings]
I know it can be intimidating
we can sometimes be very Forceful Advocates for our
[perspectives]

CARINA

oh no no yeah

SUZANNE

it's a big priority of mine
all of ours but me especially
that there's a range of
that we don't only hear from the voices of the
the Full Pay Families

CARINA

right
oh uh

SUZANNE

which is just to say
you're essential here
don't let yourself forget that

CARINA

...

MEIKO goes back to her chair. Resumes her knitting. DON flips through some notes. CARINA checks her phone. SUZANNE sits patiently.

ELI

(to the mic)

sorry about the feed dropping everyone
we have Achieved Liftoff

DON

all right

so

why don't we go ahead and get started?

Leans forward into the mic.

Just first of all

I want to say how much I appreciate all of you taking the time to be here
um

virtually

I know for many of you¹

and for myself

it's been a Very Chaotic

and very frightening

couple of days²

ELI

actually Don

it's better for the video if you just sit back in your chair naturally
the sound quality's fine I'm pretty sure

DON

(he sits back)

(The Facebook conversation
proceeds here. Footnotes indicate
when the comment appears.)

¹**Karen Sapp** We can hear you now Don.

²  **Leslie Kaufman** likes this.

right³

I wish we could be together here
physically
but we were informed by the Health Department that was Not Advisable
so⁴

just to do a little framing⁵
the way we're thinking about this is

a series of concentric circles
those of us here in this room are a tiny circle⁶

and we're going to be having a conversation about what's happening in our community⁷
and try to answer your questions
and those of you watching and commenting on the Facebook page⁸
you're a larger circle that envelopes
and informs us⁹

Also during this:

ELI gets a text. Reads it, replies quickly.

SUZANNE sees him do this. She glares at him.

He looks up. Sees her glare. Gives her a smile/srug and puts his phone away.

They both turn both to the camera.

and then there's the even larger circle of the people in our community¹⁰
who are not able to participate right now in this conversation

³**Bryan Serulnak** Any update on when school's reopening?

⁴**Guita Lakani** I think that's what they're about to tell us.

⁵  **Leslie Kaufman** likes this.

⁶**Mikeala Morse** Is Hallie not on the board anymore?

⁷**Delia Perez** They moved to Vancouver.

⁸  **Leslie Kaufman**

⁹**Taylor Aberra-Harris** Is this a recording or is this live?

¹⁰**Tyler Coppins** It's live. Hence the name, "Facebook LIVE"

and so it's
all of our responsibility to to
Hold Stake for them
and bring their concerns and ideas into these circles as much as we can¹¹

¹¹**Arnold Filmore** In fairness, you
CAN watch recordings of old ones

and also I want to say
as you're probably aware
there are a lot of eyes on us right now
I know some of you have been contacted by the media
and
people are wondering how a community likes ours is going to respond to this kind of uh¹²
adversity
so
I'd like to ask everyone to just be very¹³
Conscious
of our speech and to be aware
that while this is a conversation *for* our community¹⁴

¹²**Marla Nonner** All four of us are
watching!!!

¹³  **Leslie Kaufman** likes this.

¹⁴  **Delia Perez** likes this.

we
each of us
as individuals
are also representatives *of* that community¹⁵

¹⁵**Tonya Wallace** Samara and Tom
aren't able to watch but they wanted me
to say they wish they could.

so let's do our best to make sure we all keep our conversation
truthful and helpful and supportive¹⁶

¹⁶**Elizabeth Bugler** Good point, Don!

is there anything you wanted to add Suzanne?

SUZANNE
oh
thanks Don
I'll just say¹⁷

¹⁷**Svetlana Givental** Thanks so much for
doing this!

as you know
this community means so much to me
and has been a part of my life for so long
and
I know there's a lot of anxiety right now
and I'm just¹⁸
I'm trying to
I'm keeping my heart open to all of you
And I know that you'll all do the same¹⁹

DON
great
also
joining us virtually we have uh
on the Facebook is Sarah Howell who's the parent of a fourth grader and is a pediatrician²⁰
and is making herself available to answer any immediate um

are you there Sarah?

²¹

DON
great

ELI
sorry to interrupt Don
should we uh
respond to that question?

DON
oh yes
thanks

¹⁸  **Zarnia Mofe** likes this.

¹⁹ **Dara Konrad** Oh Suzanne!

²⁰ **Carter Boscio** How do we know if
they have it? Is there a test?

²¹ **Sarah Howell** Hi Everybody😊

there's a question about
A good question
the symptoms to look for

Sarah
if you're there can you?²²

MEIKO
Oh I can jump in here and say
Don I know you can't say anything but I'm allowed to
I mean I can *out* myself, right?

So our family
Olivia had it, has it/
and I can say for us there was²³

SUZANNE
oh Meiko²
we're trying not to use the term "outed"

MEIKO
(to SUZANNE)
hmmm?

SUZANNE
it's just a bit loaded
that term has a sort of historical association with shame

maybe a more neutral [term]?

(*mini-beat*)

²²**Sarah Howell** @Carter Boscio,
symptoms include fever, headache,
muscle aches, fatigue, loss of appetite,
pain while chewing or swallowing and
swollen salivary glands.

²³ **Sarah Howell** @Carter Boscio
Symptoms usually resolve on their own
within seven days.

MEIKO

sure²⁴

anyway um
what was I [saying]?

oh so
Olivia had a fever
that kind of came and went annnnnnd
her face got very swollen like uh
like when you get your wisdom teeth? ²⁵

but she's really
she's been
she's been a trooper

you know
I knew this was a risk when I chose not to immunize
I went into this with eyes wide open and
I'll say it's definitely an inconvenience
but the truth is I'm really enjoying this time we're getting to spend time together

so I think that might be one way to look at it
you know?
as sort of a gift
a swollen gift to be sure²⁶

ELI
what do you get for the girl who has everything?

MEIKO

²⁴**Sarah Howell** @Carter Boscio You also want to make sure to get plenty of rest and drink lots of fluids.

²⁵**Deborah Roth** Oh poor thing!

²⁶**Tyler Coppins** Thanks for the perspective, Patient Zero!

right²⁷

DON

(off comment 26)

okay okay

let's just try and uh²⁸

let's make sure our comments are um

I'm just gonna ask you all to truly make a conscious effort to just

(Makes a gesture to imply "bringing things together")

ELI

seriously guys, please²⁹

SUZANNE

(a mortified glare at ELI)

ELI

(off SUZANNE's look)

people²⁶

CARINA

there's a question here Don about

DON

(off the comment)

okay

see this is a good this is a good

when you need to go to the um

to seek uh emergency...

Sarah

²⁷**Franny Richards** Not true. She wasn't the first. Get your facts straight!!!

²⁸  **Lucy Hopkins** likes this.

²⁹**Kate Pacyniak** How do we know when we need to go to the emergency room?

would you tackle [that one]?

30

31

All five of them watch and read along the following conversation.

32

33

34

35

36

³⁰**Sarah Howell** If there's a persistent fever over about 103.5 or severe pain in the neck or head you definitely should contact a doctor immediately.

³¹**Deborah Roth** Is it okay to take Tylenol for fever?

³²**Sarah Howell** If you're going to a doctor's office or emergency room you absolutely MUST call first so they know you're coming and can prepare.

³³**Sarah Howell @Deborah Roth** acetaminophen or ibuprofen is fine. Just not aspirin.

³⁴**Darla Campese @Deborah Roth** I'd also suggest about ginger or turmeric? I find they work better than Tylenol a lot of the time and no chemicals.

³⁵**Sarah Howell @Darla Campese** I don't think there's any harm in giving ginger.

³⁶**Sarah Howell @Darla Campese** But to the degree that that's effective it's as an anti-inflammatory and we're really looking for the fever-reducing attributes. You can't get that from an herbal remedy.

DON

okay
so it seems like there's a good conversation
underway but I am also going to try to keep us moving so³⁸

I understand there's been some
miscommunication around
so

To be clear
school is closed through Wednesday³⁹
and
at that time³³

only students who
have received the MMR vaccine or
who have already had Mumps um
and faculty too⁴⁰
will be able to return

for students who don't have those
immunizations
they will be excluded from school for uh
I'm told at least 14 days
but it may
it may be longer depending on

³⁷**Darla Campese** Actually that's not
true. Apple Cider Vinegar, Garlic, Raisin
all good for reducing fever. This has
been widely studied.

³⁸**Terry Gleick** We've also been Gluten
and Processed Sugar-free since he got
sick and it made a big difference in the
swelling.

³⁹**Darla Campese** Great suggestion
@Terry Gleick! Also natural nut butters
(almond, pistachio) may help with the
aches.

⁴⁰**Sarah Howell** The incubation period
(before becoming symptomatic) is
typically 10 – 16 days, and you're
contagious seven days before symptoms
to six days after.

and that's out of my hands
that's a Health Department determination⁴¹

so
one thing that is going to happen
we've uh

we're definitely going to have to postpone this year's seventh grade acapella concert
because
with about half our students missing there's just no way to rehearse

now the health department is recommending that you get the Mumps vaccine if you haven't already

but just to be clear⁴²
you needed to have had it prior to September 2nd to be included in the category of people
who are [fine]
to not be affected by the um
quarantine
now my understanding is⁴³

they'll be here on Wednesday with some nurses from the county health department
and they'll be checking records
and also available to answer any questions⁴⁴
so if what we have on file isn't up to date you want/ to make sure that you

DON's attention is drawn to the online thread, which he watches with growing anxiety.

SUZANNE

I think it's worth amplifying that point Don?⁴⁵
even if they *do* get the vaccine now
'They still wouldn't
they'd still be forced to stay home

⁴¹**Erin Catlett** When will they decide???

⁴²**Christian Burns** Wait. HALF the school is antivaxxers? Seriously????

⁴³**Sandra Blaise** That's not really a term I'm comfortable with. It's actually something said out of ignorance.

⁴⁴**Lena Birnbaum** Wow, Gestapo much?

⁴⁵**Christian Burns** @Sandra Blaise, Oh well then, enlighten away!

so there's no
there's no actual benefit to getting it at this point

CARINA
Well there is a
I mean isn't the benefit of getting it that then you would have the immunity?

SUZANNE
well you can also get a natural immunity from just having the disease⁴⁷

MEIKO
yeah yeah
I mean no one's saying vaccines don't work

ELI
totally⁴⁸

MEIKO
like
for what it's worth
if you're saying
have vaccines reduce diseases in the world⁴⁹
Absolutely
do they largely work at what their supposed to do?
Absolutely
like, they definitely work

are they the *only* answer? ⁵⁰
are they the *best* answer?

for me

⁴⁶**Sandra Blaise** It's easy to call someone crazy if you've never walked a mile in their shoes. I wish to God that I could go back to being that blissfully ignorant gluten and dairy eating person that I was 10 years ago. But I can't

⁴⁷**Sandra Blaise** But I can't. I'm not anti-vaccine. I'm not anti-anything. What I am is a person who has seen a lot of horrible things happen to people they know and to their children and seen how they were ignored by the medical establishment.

⁴⁹**Terry Gleick** @Sandra Blaise EXACTLY. I'm NOT anti-vaccine. I'm PRO safe vaccines.

⁴⁹  **Michelle Nonner** likes this.

⁵⁰**Karen Sapp** + 1 @Sandra Blaise. Protect your children by educating yourselves.

that I'm not so sure about

ELI

you just mean like⁵¹

it's one thing if you're looking at this from a Public Health Perspective
talking about what's best for Whole Populations

as opposed to maybe

the choices people are making as Individuals

MEIKO

no exactly⁵²

CARINA

I'm sorry but

isn't that

isn't that the same thing?⁵³

Like

isn't the population just made up of a bunch of individuals?

ELI

I think she just means more

it's one thing when it's the 1950s and there's a polio epidemic
in that case

SUZANNE

well there's actually a lot of debate about why we don't see much polio anymore
you know they have evidence it had been around since the ancient Egyptians

ELI

really?⁴⁶

⁵¹**Tyler Coppins** OR, Protect your
children by vaccinating them.

⁵²**Jamil Hayes**



⁵³**Darla Campese** And you guys are
alright with giving 26 shots to a baby for
the first year in life? Are you okay with
giving infant 8 to 10 shots at once? Are
you okay with giving infants the same
dose as a 200lb man?

SUZANNE

oh yeah
they could tell from the
I think the sarcophaguses?⁵⁴

MEIKO

you know I think I've heard that

SUZANNE

so
as to why it had a big spike and then went away⁵⁵
it's not so cut and dry

hygiene plays a big factor probably

DON

(off the comment)

I am going to ask you to
let's make sure we're keeping our comments supportive and productive please/
I'm serious about this⁵⁶

ELI

isn't hygiene *better* now than it was in ancient [times]?

SUZANNE

it's counter-intuitive but it makes sense
I mean it's
did anybody see that study that just came out about how
kids who suck their thumbs have much much lower rates of allergies and asthma
because they're just exposed to far more⁵⁷ [pathogens]

⁵⁴**Michelle Noner** And we wonder about the rise in autism, learning differences, allergies etc.

⁵⁵**Christian Burns** You are welcome to your tin foil hat views that have zero supporting evidence, but please don't risk other folk's children.

⁵⁶**Bryan Serulnek** Is it fair to have school if half the kids can't be there? We ALL pay tuition.

⁵⁷**Carter Boscio** It does seem like the school would be discriminating against parental choice if it stays open for

MEIKO

I did see that actually
or maybe it heard on NPR?

SUZANNE

right so it's the same idea

DON

okay okay

I'm just gonna try to get us all back on the same page here⁵⁸

um

let me just let me just respond

it seems like there is a good conversation happening here about
whether it might be preferable
since it's such a big percentage of our population
to keep the school closed entirely until this passes
and I'll confess

I hadn't considered that option⁵⁹

but if this a discussion that the community thinks is
we're certainly open to having it

SUZANNE

that's actually a great

thank you Don

if we think of this in terms of Core Values

what's going to Strengthen Our Community?⁶⁰

perhaps making sure the student experience is consistent/ is a

ELI

okay

ONLY the vaxxed kids.

⁵⁸**Terry Gleick** True and Frankly if
you're worried about the spread of
Mumps (which isn't very serious), then
EVERYONE should stay home.

⁵⁹**Francis Alvarez** Wait what???? Why
should we be forced to keep our kids
home because you CHOOSE to
endanger yours?

⁶⁰**Franny Richards** DON! How can you
make such a HUGE UNILATERAL
decision without our input???? That is
NOT how we operate!!!!

but just from a *fiduciary* [standpoint]
utilities, mortgage, salaries
these are sunk costs
we're paying for them regardless so why⁶¹

MEIKO
unless it's like a
a furlough situation?

ELI
would that even be legal?

SUZANNE
(*off the message board*)
I think that's actually a really useful analogy
thanks Corinne

she's saying wouldn't it be just like closing for the Jewish Holidays⁶²

ELI
right right interesting heuristic⁶⁴

SUZANNE
because I recall
when we made the decision
the thinking behind it was
we didn't want to single out those who would be missing
to make them feel alienated for their religious practice⁶³
so closing school on those days was
is
a sign of respect

⁶¹**Corinne Alexander** Isn't it just like
closing for the Jewish holidays?

⁶²**Francis Alvarez** Um, sorry. Religion ≠
vaccine denial

⁶³**Erin Catlett** If we close school for the
month can we instead use the money
have in-home tutoring?

CARINA

well it's one thing to do it for just one or two days⁶⁴

SUZANNE

It's a difference of scale maybe⁶³

ELI

but I wonder

isn't it also a matter of

of planning?

of uh

intentionality? ⁶⁵

SUZANNE

I'm not sure what you mean⁶⁴

ELI

it's about it's about

it's volitional

stated up front that the beginning of the year⁶⁶

so when you you you *choose* to enroll

MEIKO

you're saying

in the same way you agree

as part of this community

that you're not going to pack nuts of any kind in your child's [lunch] ⁶⁷

ELI

exactly

I mean Tobias *loves* peanut butter and jelly sandwiches

⁶⁴**Josephine Lawrence** Actually Francis, sometime vaccine refusal does = religion. Who are you to question my religious beliefs???

⁶⁵**Francis Alvarez** @Josephine Lawrence, Ignorance is your religion?

⁶⁶**Darla Campese** Being educated means educating yourself. There is a whistleblower at the CDC who says that the CDC committed scientific fraud with regard to the MMR and hid the connection to autism.

⁶⁷**Tyler Coppins**
TRUE FACTS:
Moonlanding wasn't faked.
9/11 wasn't an inside job.
Global Warming is real.
Vaccines Don't Cause Autism

but

SUZANNE

I hear that Eli⁶⁸

But

I do think there is a whole set of implicit agreements that are made when you choose to be part of this community

we couldn't possibly spell out every single assumption

ELI

yeah no for sure but⁶⁹

DON

(to the group)

can we just pause this conversation for one second and

(to the camera)

uh uh okay

let's all just

can I ask everyone who's participating here to just⁷⁰

let's just take our fingers off the keyboards for a second and

⁷¹

let me just say

we truly appreciate you taking part in this experiment⁷²

because that's what it is

this virtual CAC

and I think

⁶⁸**Sandra Blaise** Actually its the mercury and other preservatives that cause the most problems including Autism! For claiming to be so brilliant and informed you are quite uninformed and gullible!

⁶⁹**Orson Mankel**

You want to play Russian roulette with your kids, feel free. If you bring your little petri dish to school or in public, you endanger everyone else's children. That is not OK.

⁷⁰**Carlos Banyon** Okay let's take it down a notch guys.

⁷¹**Josephine Lawrence** Not a guy, sorry.

⁷²**Delia Perez** You're a disgusting human, @Orson Mankel

and I am absolutely not trying to censor anyone
but I think for this to work
we need to
we need to imagine that everyone is here in the room together
so we can all be part of one conversation

and
if there's a separate conversation you want to have
I would encourage that as well
and maybe
it's just
it doesn't have to happen here
on the public Facebook page
you can think of it like
going out in the hallway to continue a discussion
Like your own Working Group
and then bring it back to us
so

uhhh what were you saying?

SUZANNE

I um
I was talking about Core Values

ELI
so but
okay

so isn't part of Making Positive Change in the World
isn't embedded there the idea
that you as an individual have agency in society

that you have the ability to make choices and your choices have an impact on those around you
so isn't that
isn't the second part of that
that Choices Have Consequences

and part of making a choice is embracing those consequences?

DON

would you expand on that?⁷³

ELI

I mean

Rebecca and I chose to vaccinate
of course we used the Sears book
the delayed schedule
but you know
we made that choice⁷⁴

and as a result

Tobias is now not at risk so

which could be another way to think about it
Risk-Reward⁷⁵

we took that risk and now this is the reward
we get to
to have him keep going to school⁷⁶

SUZANNE

oh my god Eli

is that

do we really want to be thinking of our children as a

⁷³**Dara Konrad** Heidegger has a great
treatise on this idea:

www.essex.ac.edu/sofeqLba1

⁷⁴**Sandy Washington** Dr. Sears is very
mainstream, middle of the road. Not
anti-vaccine, just thinks maybe we give
TOO MANY vaccines

⁷⁵**Sandy Washington** Dr. Sears also has
a great website www.askdrsears.com

⁷⁶**Christian Burns** Sears is actually NOT
a mainstream doctor. Very fringe.

like your stock portfolio?⁷⁷

CARINA

Well maybe it's simpler to just
just at a basic level
why should the students
the ones who *are* immunized

ELI

right

Why should they be penalized?
isn't that a sort of Collective Punishment⁷⁸

MEIKO

uh but
punishment implies you did something wrong

DON

right⁷⁹

we would certainly not want to feel like we were
engaging in a form of
punishing the child for the sins of the parent

SUZANNE

can we
can we not?

Frame this in terms of *sin* and *punishment*
that is making me *very uncomfortable*⁸⁰

MEIKO

me too actually⁷³

⁷⁷**Sarah Howell** Hi – Sorry, had to pop off to take a call. I should say there's no proven medical benefit to spreading out immunizations on an “alternative” schedule.

⁷⁸**Jamil Hayes** @Sarah Howell NOT TRUE! Babies immune systems too fragile to handle 14 viruses.

⁷⁹**Jamil Hayes** There was just a big article about this community in China or Taiwan where her entire population was forcibly vaccinated and they still had a massive outbreak of Rubella.

⁸⁰**Guila Lakahni** The autism-vaccine link has been 100% Debunked. The doctor who made those claims lost his medical license. He faked his lab results.

ELI
you're right
I apologize
that was inappropriate⁸¹

SUZANNE
because an equally valid frame could be

this is an Unjust System
if the school stays open for only *some* of the students

we're creating a sort of⁸²
second class
a sort of Apartheid system
And *who knows* what kind of far reaching

CARINA
oh come on⁸³

SUZANNE
maybe we'll have one water fountain for children who have been vaccinated/
and one water fountain for

ELI
that seems a little over the top

SUZANNE
really?⁸⁴

ELI
mmhmmm

⁸¹**Sandra Blaise** @Jamil Hayes There's
SO MUCH corruption in Chinese
Pharma.

⁸²**Paula Moody** @Guita Lakahni
Actually Dr. Wakefield on the autism link
has been proved again and again. There
was JUST a documentary produced by
Robert DeNiro

⁸³**Carlos Banyon** Can't there be a middle
ground? Some vaccines are okay, but
maybe not all and we don't know
enough.

⁸⁴**Zane Mercer** Sorry. In science there
are facts and things that are made up.
THERE IS NO MIDDLE GROUND.

SUZANNE

well Eli⁸⁵

tell me this

do you want to bring Tobias over for a playdate at my house tomorrow?

ELI

um⁷⁹

sure

he's been immunized

A moment – maybe a look between MEIKO and ELI?

SUZANNE

well

you know who else was “immunized”?

the first student to be diagnosed with Mumps⁸⁶

DON

SUZANNE!

Suzanne

SUZANNE

I'm not going say the child's *name* Don
but people need to know⁸⁷

these vaccines don't always work

ELI

I cannot comment on
WE should not be commenting on
an individual [student]

but I can say

⁸⁵**Karen Stacin** I was nurse for four years and I saw just how bad so much of the practice of western medicine is. That's why I made the choice when I became pregnant that I would NEVER subject my children to western medicine.

⁸⁶When they are old enough to decide I will support whatever choice they make, but right now I am leaving their bodies PURE.

⁸⁷**Reid Nuzzi** Did you just say you'd NEVER TAKEN YOUR CHILD TO A DOCTOR???????? That's child endangerment!!!

is that true?

SUZANNE

Maybe someone can post a link to this online⁸⁸

Merck is currently being sued for falsifying data⁸⁴ they lied about the efficiency of the vaccine and that's why you're seeing around the country you're seeing most people who are getting Mumps have been vaccinated⁸⁹

CARINA

where did you hear that?
that doesn't seem/ [plausible]

SUZANNE

it's all over the news

(to Meiko)

Exactly! The conflict of interest is ridiculous

CARINA

I would think if it was all over the news I would have heard about it⁹⁰

SUZANNE

There's a lot of misinformation out there it's hard to navigate it's not your fault

CARINA

excuse me?⁹¹

SUZANNE

I simply meant you may not have as much education in this area as I do

I think I can say
my understanding is
there has been a case of a student
who was vaccinated contracting
but I think
what's really
what's going best serve us here is to

*The "Post a link" comment pulls
DON's attention back to the screen. His
eyes widen.*

DON

which is why/
which is why

MEIKO

well there is this *board* that gets to
decide which vaccines are
mandatory
and many of the people on the
board also hold patents

(MEIKO watches ELI)

DON

(still following the online conversation)

I think we may have
And this is of course my fault

Overstepped some initial Ground
Rules
so

okay okay

ELI checks his phone stands up.

ELI

Sorry excuse me just one sec

*(He walks away from the group, so he's
not in front of the camera. Makes a call.)*

ELI

Hi yea

What'd they say?

okay

okay

okay okay
we'll just give me like ten

Okay fine no I'll just meet there
okay

(he hangs up. Walks back)

⁸⁸**Elba Crawford** Don't be
ridiculous. She can do what she
thinks is best.

⁸⁹**Carlos Banyon** I'm sorry. As a
therapist I'm a Mandatory Reporter.
I'm going to have to call Child
Protective Services.

⁹⁰**Paula Moody @Carlos Banyon**
THAT was not called for Don't be
such a fucking asshole.

⁹¹**Terry Gleick** Here's article
Suzanne!
http://ahrp.org/former-merck-scientists-sue-merck.../ There's a

do you know the number of people who are harmed by a vaccine-preventable disease in the US⁹²
it's it's it's close to zero

CARINA
is it? ⁸⁹

SUZANNE
I mean it's for sure it's far less than the one in nine getting asthma from vaccines⁹³
Or than the one in fifty with a peanut allergy from the Hib vaccine?
or the one in 36 getting autism from the MMR

CARINA
Uh what? ⁹¹
I don't know where you're getting those numbers from but they seem insanely high⁹⁴

SUZANNE
these are documented facts

(DON raising his voice pulls his attention to the him and then to the screen.

The read and are horrified. Perhaps the characters make some nonverbal vocalizations in response to what the see.)

I have said this once
and I am going to say it again
and I am going to say it
More Emphatically
if we can't

please THINK that the things you say are saying are going to be taken as examples of
how our community behaves and

if this is not going to a *productive* conversation

I am going to ask you all once again to just⁹⁶
to stop typing
and take a deep breath
and close your
And to to

Picture A Wall
A wall made of Old, Broken,
Stones

PICTURE A WALL!

a wall so high that you can't see over it⁹⁵

(Don reads the comments, paralyzed.)

MEIKO
is everything okay?

ELI
um yeah no
I don't know

(to the group and the Camera)
sorry everybody I have to run
I'll um [get caught up later]

sorry

ELI exits.

MEIKO notices DON getting agitated and turn her attention to the screen.

MEIKO
oh my god

federal lawsuit b/c MERCK falsified their data.

⁹²**Darla Campese** Wake up!!! The answer is not to get another dose of a failed vaccine.

⁹³ **Tyler Coppins** What do stupid people and dead people have in common?

The dead people don't know they're dead either!

⁹⁴**Pila Baum** Sorry but refusing to acknowledge vaccine injury is like the GERMANS circa 1944 claiming that they had no knowledge of the concentration camps.

⁹⁵**Tyler Coppins** Ding ding ding! We have a winner! First Nazi reference.⁹¹

⁹⁶**Josephine Lawrence** Also vaccine immunity wears off. Natural immunity lasts forever

97

98

99

100

101

102

103

104

this is
this is

(DON becomes more and more flustered)

DON
Okay
Okay
that is really
that is *really* not

This is *NOT* the kind of language
we use in this community

This is *NOT* how we treat each
other

I am
I am

⁹⁷**Francis Alvarez** Totally. After they amputated my left arm, I had a Natural Immunity to left-handedness

⁹⁸**Francis Alvarez** After my castration I had a Natural Immunity to testosterone. Great thinking everyone😊

⁹⁹**Josephine Lawrence** Fuck your cynicism asshole. We're talking about our children's lives.

¹⁰⁰**Guita Lakahni** This IS about our children's lives. We have a three month old. She can't get vaccinated. So YES your beliefs scare me.

¹⁰¹**Arnold Filmore** What scares ME is the corrupt lawmakers who are MURDERING children for money. When the revolution comes they'll be first against the wall.

¹⁰²**Guita Lakahni** @Arnold Filmore Are you threatening me?

¹⁰³**Arnold Filmore** @Guita Lakahni We're all threatened by a police state that's going to force vaccines on our children.

¹⁰⁴**Myla Townes** Not to be mean, but overpopulation is such a huge problem for our planet. too bad these MILD diseases don't just take care of that by spreading throughout the

unvaccinated ADULTS .

105

I am going to
Count
To
Three

¹⁰⁵**Arnold Filmore** No @Myla Townes, we know you'd never be mean. No way. Intolerant but not mean. You just WISHED DEATH on your fellow human beings. Wow.

106

uno

dos

tres

¹⁰⁶**Myla Townes** Natural Selection.

107

¹⁰⁷**Arnold Filmore** @myla townes and you're an ignorant cunt

DON
ENOUGH!

DON slams the computer shut, cutting off the live feed.

A Moment. They all look at each other. It's possible no one's ever seen DON this riled up before.

DON closes his eyes. Takes a deep breath.

DON
Iiiiiii
am feeling

like this format
is not facilitating us all bringing our best selves to this conversation

Lights.

3.

Dark. The sound of a hospital respirator beeps.

As the lights rise, we see MEIKO standing outside a hospital room.

ELI comes out, hugs her.

They end the hug. They sit in two chairs in the hallway outside the room.

MEIKO

I'm so so sorry

ELI

thanks

MEIKO

how um

how is he?

ELI

(shaky)

he's uh

they have him in a

a medically induced coma

so he's

just to

to give his body a chance to um

to fight and

but he's

he's stable at the moment

and they're

they're

optimistic

MEIKO

he's gonna be okay

ELI

are you uh

are you asking?

MEIKO

no yeah uh

I meant

ELI
yeah um
yeah

MEIKO
Rebecca's not here?

ELI
no I uh
she's been her for three days straight
she hasn't slept
she can't sleep when she's with him
I told her
I said
you *must* go home and sleep
so

and shower
and eat

MEIKO
thanks for
for letting me visit

ELI
I didn't want to be alone

MEIKO
sure

Some silence.

do you need me to
can I get you some food or

ELI
no no uh

Rebecca doesn't eat when she's [anxious]
whereas I
have completely exhausted the Dorito supply from the third floor vending machine
the second floor is touch and go

MEIKO
I think I have an apple in my bag

maybe some roughage?

ELI

okay sure

MIEKO reaches into her bag, pulls out an apple. Hands it to him.

ELI

thanks

He crunches a bite.

ELI

I used to think the worst part about being a parent was that every fucking cliché is true
you find yourself having these disgusting conversations about

oh it's all joy and no fun

it's such a fun age

the days are long but the years are short

but

I just sit there in that room staring at him and thinking

I'm so lucky I've gotten to have you in my life

I'm so lucky I've gotten to have you in my life

I'm so lucky I've gotten to have you in my life

and I'm like

why was I so bothered by that

by the fact that other people experience the same thing I experience?

A lull.

MEIKO

everybody sends their love

ELI

thanks

what'd you all decide to do about the

MEIKO

oh we're gonna

we're gonna stay closed until the quarantine is

Don just thought

after what happened

a Cooling Off Period might be [a good idea]

ELI

right

But
Olivia's doing okay?

MEIKO
oh she's she's
she's fine she's
pretty much all better

ELI
good

MEIKO
if I had
obviously if I had known

ELI
sure

MEIKO
I just feel so completely gutted

ELI
look

there's no way to even be sure he got it from [Olivia]

MEIKO
but still

Mini-beat.

ELI
it's not your fault

MEIKO
thank you
for saying that

ELI
(*crunches the apple*)

MEIKO
it's just uh
I think Rebecca might

think it is

ELI

why would you think that?

MEIKO

she uh

she texted me

ELI

what'd she say?

MEIKO

(pulls out her phone).

Just

Whore

(she hands him the phone)

if you keep scrolling up

like

pretty much once an hour just

whore

whore

whore

ELI

hmmm

she probably just like

copy and pasted

MEIKO

right

I thought you guys had uh

had

Passed Through Monogamy

ELI

we have

we did

both of us

expanded our

I am capable of loving more than one person at a time

and so is she and that's

I mean generally we do try to have it be somebody the other person doesn't know

but
she barely knows you so

MEIKO
we were on the development committee last year

ELI
oh sure but
there were a lot uh [people on it]
it was a huge committee, right?

MEIKO
we co-chaired it

ELI
well look
marriages are [complicated]

it's hard to understand if you've never been in one

MEIKO
(*hurt*)
I've had relationships

ELI
okay

A moment.

ELI
I can
I'll ask her to stop texting but

I can't tell her how to feel

MEIKO
it's fine
I mean
if it helps
if it makes her feel better to
I can ignore it

I just
I just want him to be okay

ELI
thanks

A moment.

MEIKO

Can I
can I see him?

ELI

IIII
think it's better that he
that he not be disturbed

MEIKO

okay

ELI

right now

MEIKO

sure

um

I guess I'll uh
I should probably go

ELI

okay

Lights.

4. *The LIBRARY*

Morning, bright. Maybe we only notice now that the previous library scenes all took place at night.

MEIKO alone in the library. She scrolls through her phone.

After a moment, SUZANNE enters.

SUZANNE
good morning

SUZANNE sits.

A moment. She looks at MEIKO, smiles.

Eventually MEIKO notices and looks up.

MEIKO
hi

SUZANNE
how *are* you?

MEIKO
oh I'm
yeah
I'm okay

SUZANNE
yeah?

MEIKO
mmhmm

SUZANNE
Olivia's feeling better?

MEIKO
yeah mmhmm sure she's
mostly

thanks for asking

A moment.

SUZANNE
and do you know
have you

MEIKO
hmmmm?

SUZANNE
how's
have you heard from Eli?
do you know [how Tobias is doing]?

MEIKO
(Looks up again)
oh no
I uh
not since uh

he's been
you know
he's been hard to get to a hold of

SUZANNE
sure

A little moment.

I thought
I would've thought you would

MEIKO
(gives a tight smile/shrug as if to say "I'm not sure what you mean")
I think probably their family just needs some space right now

SUZANNE
of course

Some silence.

CARINA enters.

CARINA
hi
hello

MEIKO gives a small wave. SUZANNE smile/nods.

CARINA
oh!
I brought some
I brought scones!

from the place

CARINA pulls out a little bag of scones and some plates.

CARINA

They're gluten free

She gestures for them to help themselves.

SUZANNE

that's so thoughtful

They don't.

SUZANNE

but you know we don't

we don't bring disposable plates on campus

CARINA

no no these are

recycled, biodegradable, totally organic

SUZANNE

but still

as far as setting an example

CARINA

right right

I

I did the research

this company claims

and with the drought?

it's actually better for the environment than using a dishwasher

SUZANNE

that seems like a dubious claim

CARINA

I'll send you the link

SUZANNE

perfect

They all sit there a while.

DON enters

DON

Okay great
everyone's here

how're you all holding up?

Nods and shrugs all around.

DON

I know it's been a

actually let me back up and say
I want to acknowledge
this has been the most trying span of days in my whole work-life
and

I'm so grateful that I have been able to draw such strength from each of you
so
Thank You

SUZANNE

of course Don

DON

and

I

I just got off the phone with Eli and he
well
Tobias is
uh
he's awake and alert
and his fever's down and
which is good
but um

it does appear there's been some pretty substantial
uh
hearing loss
in his
I think more in his left ear

MEIKO

(a small sound of pain/sympathy)

DON

and I think it's gonna be a while before they
know the um
extent
and if it's going to be permanent or

CARINA

oh god I'm so sorry

DON

um and

but he asked me to pass on to you

he just wanted to

he and Rebecca both

to let you know how much they've appreciated everybody's thoughts and

uh prayers

so

I will let you know as soon as I know more and

I think what's best

all we can do at the moment is to uh

to focus on

what we can

on the positive

on what we can

do

SUZANNE

of course

DON

so

okay

so I am calling this meeting to order at

10:07am

and thank you all for making this work

CARINA

of course

DON

and apologies I was having Xerox machine issues

so I'm afraid I don't have copies of the agenda for everyone

SUZANNE

it's fine Don

DON

so let's just

(reading from a piece of paper)

first
I do have an update from Dr. Kilburn
they're saying
assuming no new cases um
present
that
they're talking about
a week from Thursday would be the earliest we could potentially [open]

SUZANNE
that's great

CARINA
how many is it altogether?

DON
students?
who were

uh
thirty seven
was the last update
and I believe it's a little over a hundred altogether in the BerkeleyOakland region

but
as far as I'm aware Tobias is the only [case]
Uh
where there've been
complications

SUZANNE
it's very very rare

MEIKO
that's not much of a comfort if it's [your child]

SUZANNE
of course not
I'm just saying
statistically

A small moment.

DON
so

as you might imagine
I've

we've
received a uh
a number of requests
of issues that we address
and I've tried
just for

just so that we're not here all day
I've tried to consolidate them as best I can
there's a lot of overlap

SUZANNE
thanks Don

DON
and um
okay
I'm just going to come out and say it
I don't want to be accused of uh
Burying The Lede
so
okay
there's an issue the executive committee needs to weigh in on

so I'm just gonna put it forward and

so
there is a question

there was a request that we consider
whether we may want to
retool our approach vis a vis the
Immunization Policy

SUZANNE
in what way?

DON
well one option would be to start requiring [vaccinations]?

SUZANNE
well that is

I'm sorry
that is obviously a non-starter

DON

and if that is the consensus view of the board
than obviously

SUZANNE

this is like the
this

what's the word

trolling?

someone who probably was upset by the Facebook discussion
and our decision on the closure

is now

they're trolling

they trying to Sow Chaos

and I think the right response is just to

to not even respond

to rise above it

When They Go Low We Go High

DON

well

actually

this is a

the request that we consider this came directly from
from a member of the executive committee

so

A moment.

SUZANNE

I see

MEIKO

what did uh

what did uh/ he [say]

SUZANNE

Look

Eli is experiencing a trauma

and I know

I know better than most

in a moment like that you

you lose the ability to think rationally

you are looking

you are just so desperately looking for someone to blame

and I think it requires from all of us
to extend our sense of of of
empathy?
and/
and

DON
this request was not uh
did not come
from Eli

SUZANNE
oh

A little moment.

CARINA
I just thought
in light of what's happened to Tobias
that we
we have a responsibility to

SUZANNE
this is

Carina
you are new to our community
and you are welcome here
we appreciate what you bring

but there are things that are are
fundamental

and it's
I'm
sorry
it's inappropriate
and frankly offensive
for you to assume that/ you can you can

MEIKO
So

just so I understand
is the idea this would be for new students only
or would people be
would people be grandfathered in?

SUZANNE

I think what Meiko's saying and I agree is this not the kind of thing that we can/ just suddenly *decide*

MEIKO

(lashing out)

I can speak for myself thank you!

Don?

DON

well that would definitely be one approach

but I think

I don't want to speak for you Carina but
what you were suggesting was a more
immediate impact?

CARINA

right um

I was imagining more
as a condition of returning to school?

SUZANNE

okay okay okay/ let's just

CARINA

I mean if we

if we *grandfathered*

then we still wouldn't really get Herd Immunity
which is you know
the concept that/ you need to have

SUZANNE

we know what Herd Immunity is

CARINA

right so

from what I understand

the Mumps vaccine is 88% effective

so you need the Herd Immunity to protect the other 12%/ for whom (it doesn't work)

SUZANNE

actually it's the Mumps vaccine that's preventing the natural herd immunity from being able
to take its course

CARINA

I don't

I'm sorry
I don't think that's true

SUZANNE
and I totally respect that that's your opinion

and it makes complete sense
If you're just a sort of a casual consumer of information you would have that impression

CARINA
I'm not *casual* about it

SUZANNE
because there's a very powerful lobby
that works hard to suppress any evidence that undermines its agenda

CARINA
Isn't it more like
isn't it more like
climate change

you know
like
you can find a scientist somewhere that questions it
but if 99.9 percent agree than
it's like
it's sort a settled issue right

SUZANNE
well
it is
it *is* like climate change
in that
in that
you have this very powerful
a very wealthy industry
paying scientists to doctor their research
and
totally unwilling to acknowledge any data that would threaten their profits

and one the other side you have a
what began as a totally grassroots movement of people saying
hey what you're doing has consequences
and we will no longer let our environment or our children's bodies be destroyed
just so you can make more money for your shareholders

CARINA

the government
uh
the CDC doesn't have shareholders

SUZANNE
right but who funds the studies?
the pharmaceutical companies

I mean have you been reading any of these stories about how the life expectancy among working class white men in the Midwest is *plummeting* and addiction is *skyrocketing* and it's all from prescription painkillers because the pharmaceutical companies have *for years* have been pushing doctors to prescribe them and they're *highly addictive*

because there were studies published in *mainstream* medical journals saying you know *painkillers aren't addictive* that's how they got the doctors to keep [proscribing them] and the studies were funded by Big Pharma

this isn't *fringe*
this was in The New Yorker!

so when these same companies come to us and say we'd like to inject a disease into your one-day old baby to prevent an STD which they *do* they give a hepatitis B vaccine to newborns I mean no thank you

A moment.

DON
okay okay
this is a really
this a very productive I think uh

but I wonder if a better way for us to frame this discussion is by you know what might be useful is if we just what if we took say ten minutes and attempt to just to walk a mile in each other's shoes

so Carina

you could make the argument about why we should codify our previous policy
and Suzanne you could take /Carina's position and just

SUZANNE

I cannot believe we are even having this discussion at a moment when our community
is not in *such* a fragile place

Do you know the number of people who have said to me that they no longer feel safe here?

that is what we need to be addressing

DON

and we will

but

now that this issue has been brought before the board

I do feel that

in terms of doing my Due Diligence

it does need to be resolved

one way or the other

before we can

reopen

SUZANNE

what?

DON

because it could be a liability issue

I had a good conversation with Margaret Cohen who's a parent and an attorney and does a
lot of risk assessment and

CARINA

I wonder Don

if a useful frame might be

and maybe this is a bad analogy

but can I just ask

does the

does the school take a position

an official position

on the teaching of evolution?

SUZANNE

oh come on

DON

uhhh

not a
we don't
we don't have a *position*
we teach science, biology

CARINA
right right but I just mean
if there was a
a *creationist* family
then/ what would be our

SUZANNE
okay no please
that's offensive

CARINA
can I just
can I please/
can I finish

SUZANNE
not if you're going to
then no/ I don't think we need to hear

MEIKO
just say what you're going say

CARINA
thank you
I'm just
I'm just trying to understand
if there's a
a Widely Held Scientific View
like say
about evolution

if a family
at home
if they want to believe something different
that's their right
but that doesn't mean we
because we might offend them
that doesn't me we don't teach it, right?

SUZANNE
well
in your

your
as I said *offensive*
analogy
then I think
if ideas about evolution came in the form of a needle that might poison them?
then I think
yes
I think we would reconsider whether it would be right to inject a student
with those “ideas”/
over the wishes of their parents

CARINA
but by *not* teaching it wouldn't we be like
defacto embracing the other side?

SUZANNE
this is ridiculous

look
Don
you say we can't reopen until we have consensus?
well

I don't see my position changing so
so
so I hope you all will just pause for one fucking second and think about what's best for the
school

A moment.

DON
I think that's what everyone here is trying to do

SUZANNE
(to Carina)
Has it
has it even occurred to you
I just
I wonder if you fully understand what you are asking?

the impact?

it would mean
it would mean there wouldn't be a place for my family here anymore
for Meiko's family

and not just me

a lot
a lot of people
'They Would Leave

is that what you want?

CARINA
no no
of course that's not what I want but
that would be their choice

SUZANNE
and these children who left
there would be some other school far away where they could all go and be unsafe
but that's okay with you?

CARINA
no it's not okay with me
it's just not in my power to control

SUZANNE
ohhh
Right right
But in your Perfect World
there'd be some kind of Vaccination Force
the police would what?
show up at your door with needles

CARINA
no come on that's crazy

SUZANNE
arrest the parents
take their kids away?

CARINA
of course not

SUZANNE
why not?

CARINA
because it's not
I mean
there's no way that would be legal

SUZANNE

so it's the
it's the *law* that's wrong
but the *principle* is

that you should just get to *impose* [what you think is right]

CARINA

no
I don't know
I'm just trying to

cause we're talking about *this* community
and Being Intentional about [the choice we're making]
and so if
even if
you feel like the choice is
a choice between
Doing what's right for your child and what's right for the community
and I think that's a false choice
but if that's what it is and what we're saying is
I'm not willing to subject my child to even the tiniest amount of risk
so that we can protect people's elderly parents with cancer
or
or
the younger sibling of a student

is that really a community you'd want to be a part of?

SUZANNE

see and now you're making my point for me
because the risks from these diseases are
in the developed world
are Vanishingly Small
so yes we'd be I admit asking everyone to take on that miniscule [risk]

whereas the risks *from* the vaccines
there *So Many* people whose lives have been destroyed
I know a lot
A Lot/ [of people]

CARINA

do you know about the
have you heard of the Vaccine Court?

SUZANNE

of course

CARINA

(explaining to Don and Meiko)

it was set up so that
if someone *is* injured by a vaccine to adjudicate
and compensate
and
there was a
I read about
a famous case
a family that said their child got autism from the MMR
and they testified how before the vaccine she was absolutely normal developmentally
in every way
and then as soon as she got it
all these things started happening

SUZANNE

it's very common

CARINA

right so
but here they had to
to like
Present Evidence
and it turned out
there were notes
Doctors Notes from the
the six month checkup and the nine checkup saying
"this could be something to watch out for"
"this could be an early indication of..."
and the parents they just
they had no memory of this and they
that's the thing
I don't think they're were lying
I think they
I think their pain was absolutely real
I think they 100% believed what they were saying
but our memories are such unreliable things/ and

DON

maybe
maybe what we should have done from the outset is just to
just to acknowledge up front that
none of us in this room are scientists and
no one here is the Arbiter of Absolute Truth
but each of us/ does hold [a truth]

SUZANNE

You know we have talked so much this past year about Implicit Bias
I am feeling a lot of
particularly from you Don

DON
what?

SUZANNE
a very strong bias against people who support parental choice
and I think it's undergirding everything you say
I'm surprised by it
and honestly?
Very Very Disappointed

DON
Suzanne
I know this is a very sensitive issue for you
I am sorry if you're feeling attacked
that was not my intention

SUZANNE
(seething)
there is no benefit in exploring an idea that would
and this isn't hyperbole
destroy the school
just because

and frankly I'm not sure that it's appropriate that people who are here
only here
because of the significant financial support the school is providing them/
should be dictating

DON
hey
that is OUT OF LINE!

A moment.

SUZANNE
you're right
I apologize

CARINA
it's fine

SUZANNE

look
of course what's happening to Tobias and Eli and Rebecca is terrifying
Just like
lightning is terrifying
if it strikes you
but

but
Eli isn't even here to speak for himself
so
therefore
I. Think. We. Should. Move. On.

DON
how would you suggest we
we do that?

SUZANNE
I think you read the next item on the agenda

DON
I don't feel that we have completely resolved /this

MEIKO
I'm sorry
didn't you say
didn't you say
that school *can't* reopen until we decide?

DON
I think that's correct
I think
difficult as it may be
it's incumbent/ on us to

SUZANNE
what do *you* think Don?

DON
I think

I think that everyone in this room
holds a valid point of view

SUZANNE
and what's *your* point view

DON

my position here
is just to help us see if we can get to a place
where we can really hear each other/ and

SUZANNE

well that's not a very fucking useful position right now Don

DON

...

SUZANNE

because my point of view
is that you *do* have a point of view
and by suggesting we make this change you are *advocating* for that point of view
and you are too weak a man to say it

SUZANNE storms out.

Everyone sits for a while.

DON

I should
I should
I think I should [go after her]

excuse me

Don quickly exits.

A long silence. They sit.

Finally:

CARINA

was that?
did you find that offensive?

MEIKO

why would I be offended?

CARINA

I don't know
I mean

you more or less agree with her right

I don't mean that in a judgmental [way]

MEIKO

I'm not sure I'd say *agree* with her

In the Venn Diagram of our thinking there may be some
Areas of Overlap

CARINA

sure

is it okay
can I ask
which
areas?

MEIKO

no it's fine

I just

I don't think it's crazy to think that

when it comes to certain issues

issues in which there are powerful forces with enormous amounts of money exerting
immense influence

that there is reason to be skeptical

CARINA

no yeah

of course

I guess just for me

when I read these people online

the leaders of this movement

like they do make a lot of sense

I mean of course the press *is* unreliable

and government often *is* inept,

and Big Pharma *is* corrupt.

I agree with all that

but I'm so disturbed by this worldview

which is

No One Can Be Trusted

MEIKO

well trust is

trust is

hard

to get back

once you've lost it

A little moment.

maybe what it really is
is just
we have so much fucking hubris, you know?

Through the following, MEIKO becomes strangely upset.

coming out of World War II
and
this sort of industrial revolution
and factory approach to food and food products
and the creation of *plastics*
the move towards the sort of
car
and suburbia
and all this *stuff*
all this stuff that we thought was *so* great

and then it turns out
all of these marvels of technology
now we realize
there's quite a few of them that we're like
Maybe we *shouldn't* be pumping carbon dioxide into the air by the ton
maybe we *shouldn't* be giving our animals antibiotics every five seconds

and
oh shit plastic's really bad for you
it's doing all this terrible stuff to the environment

all this stuff that we thought we wanted
we thought would make us happy
it turns out
we didn't really know first thing about it

MEIKO is maybe breaking down a little bit by now.

CARINA's not exactly sure what to do or what's going on. Comfort her?

CARINA
have you um
have you talked to Eli

MEIKO
(*straightening up, wiping tears*)

Jesus does everybody know?

CARINA

...

MEIKO

no

he um

he won't speak to me

CARINA

oh

MEIKO

but you should uh

you should reach out to him

I'm sure he could use the support

CARINA

okay

MEIKO

I could be wrong, right?

I don't know

but I have this overwhelming sense of

I believe in Human Fallibility

like

We Could Be Getting This Wrong

Lights.

5. The library

SUZANNE and CARINA sit. A few scones sit on a reusable plate.

SUZANNE

so thank you so much
for
for meeting me

CARINA

of course

SUZANNE

I'm really not feeling positive about the way I exited the meeting and

CARINA

oh you don't have to apologize
it was a/very stressful

SUZANNE

I know I don't have to apologize
but I was just hoping we could

CARINA

is Don coming?

SUZANNE

oh no
I thought it might be nicer to just
to get a chance for us to just

you know Don can be very

he amazing at connecting with people and
so inspiring
and the children *adore* him
but he's not always
he's a great captain until you come up on an iceberg
you know?

CARINA

right

SUZANNE

and Meiko reached out to me and she
she thought I should speak to you

so
I just wanted to check in
to see
how you were feeling

I've been doing a lot thinking about what you said

CARINA
yeah me too
I've been doing a lot thinking too
and reading

SUZANNE
great

CARINA
and the thing I just keep coming back to is
I mean like you said
as a Custodian of the School

SUZANNE
exactly
because the reason we do things the way we do
putting consensus at the center
it's not
it's not a gesture

CARINA
no right

SUZANNE
it's a way of Being In The World
it's of a way of acknowledging
I am aware that I carry immense privilege in our society
and because of that
there are perspectives
and Life Experiences that I can't possibly have access to
and I need to make space for those

CARINA
and I appreciate that

SUZANNE
and so putting this structure in place is a way of
is a way of preventing me
even if I want to from
using my privilege and my power to make

like you said
Top Down decisions

because that's so much of what's wrong in our world
and by modeling
I really believe this
by modeling the kind of society we want to create
that's how we
that's how we Make Change

CARINA
no I agree
a hundred percent

SUZANNE
and I'm not trying to change your mind
I don't think that's my place

I believe what I believe and you believe what you believe
the real question is

how do we
how do we
Make Space
for both of our beliefs

CARINA
I don't know
I don't know that we can

SUZANNE
Well let's just

what if we *imagined* we could

CARINA
okay

SUZANNE
because one thought is
we could
we could have a network?
for all the families that choose not vaccinate
and if one child becomes symptomatic
or if there's an outbreak in the region
we could all
we could codify it

we would
proactively
keep our children home until the whole thing passes
would that
would that [satisfy you?]

CARINA

I

I

I'm sorry but
no

that wouldn't really solve the

SUZANNE

okay well

That was just one idea

I am open

I am open to hearing any [any idea you have]

because I want to accommodate

I really do

your feelings

your your your

right

to have an environment that you feel is safe for you child

CARINA

and I appreciate that

I do

but it's

it's complicated

because it's not just my child

it's also

I'm sorry

but also I have to think of

the rights of your child

to not be sick

they matter too

SUZANNE

the rights of *my* child?

CARINA

of any

of *every* child

at the school

SUZANNE

(scathing)

that's very
compassionate
of you

CARINA

...

Longish moment. SUZANNE collects herself.

SUZANNE

you know my first baby

she was this absolutely precious perfect little girl
Juniper was
she was just full of smiles and pure joy/
and she

CARINA

I thought your oldest was named uh
Tompkins

SUZANNE

Tompkins *is* my oldest

Juniper

was my first
and she was you know
babbling away starting at six months
and said her first word at eight months
and was walking at ten months
and was just
so far ahead of all the kids

we used to joke
our joke was
we're lucky she's so good natured
because she's such a genius
at least she'll be a benevolent dictator

well
and then we
we went in for the
the one year shots

that's when they give you the Live Viruses

to a One Year Old

and she just
from the minute she got them she WAILED
and WAILED
her skin was on fire
she cried non-stop for two days
and we would hold her and she would look at us
and she was begging
you could see she was just
she couldn't understand why we couldn't make it better

and I kept calling and calling
and the doctor said
that's normal
that can happen
nothing to worry about
just give some Tylenol for the fever

and finally she stopped crying
but the next day
and the day after that
we realized
she's not talking anymore
She's not even babbling
and she

she tried to walk
but she'd fall down a lot

and then just stopped trying

And we brought her in to the doctor
and he said

nothing to worry about
sometimes there's a regression
it'll pass

and she also
you know she'd been sleeping through the night since five months
but now she was back to
being up every three hours

and finally after about two weeks

we went to bed
we were fucking exhausted of course
and I closed my eyes
and when I opened them it was morning
and I thought
I nudged Sam
I was like
did do you do the whole night?
and he was like
no I didn't get up

and there was a moment of
ah thank god she's back to sleeping through the

and it was just that one moment
because then I
I
I
Just Knew

and I ran into her room
and she was

CARINA
oh god

SUZANNE
she was so still
so perfect

and she didn't look that different than when

but

CARINA
I'm so so sorry

SUZANNE
yeah well
that's what they said too

the doctors
they did a
an
autopsy
they said

Oh it certainly wasn't the vaccine

it was Just SIDS

JUST

that's all

run of the mill

but I know

CARINA

I can't imagine

SUZANNE

no

you can't

SUZANNE

and then you know what makes it so much worse is you

you tell the doctors what happened

and they say

nope

it couldn't have happened that way

and it's like

it's like

getting into a car accident and breaking your arm and going to the hospital

and they put you in a cast and they ask what happened and when you tell them

they say

oh no, no one ever break their arms in car accidents

it must be a coincidence

and you think you're going crazy and then you go online

and you find a hundred thousand people who have also broken their arms in car accidents

and also been told by their doctors it must be a coincidence

and they are also tired of being told they're crazy

CARINA

I'm so so sorry

SUZANNE

yes

you said that and that's fine

but

look

Don is very adamant
and maybe he's correct
that we have to
this has to be set before we can reopen

so
I have a lot of respect for you
for the fact that you have engaged with this thoughtfully
and are
representing a point of view that is
is worth hearing from but

CARINA
I'm trying to be a
to do my due diligence

SUZANNE
and that's great
and and and
I'm not saying that this isn't a conversation we can continue to have as a community
but

what we need right now
we need to be able to come together on this so

CARINA
But it's
it's not just me
a lot of people feel the way I do
and I
even if
even if
I have responsibility to to to
Hold Stake for them

A moment.

SUZANNE
well then
maybe we need to consider that we
that we
shut the school down

it would

it would *pain me* so deeply

CARINA

I mean no yeah/
but I think actually

SUZANNE

(holding up a finger as to say "let me finish")

so

all I'm asking is that you
you take some time
and think about it
and if you come back and you decide
closing the school is what we need to do
then
I will support that

but I do think that
because I'm sure if you and Meiko and I are together on this
Eli will
he cares deeply about the school and I have/ no doubt that

CARINA

but
I thought you
I thought you had spoken to Meiko

SUZANNE

yes and she
she knows my
my story

I'm sure that's why she suggested I meet with you

CARINA

right no
she told me

A little moment.

SUZANNE

oh

CARINA

but it's just
um

I'm really sorry I thought you [knew]
she and I
and actually Eli too
we're all on the same page about this I think?

SUZANNE

what?

CARINA

and I am *so* sorry for what happened to you
for what you think happened to you

and I know this puts you in just an awful position but I think
it's like you said

We have to put the community first
right?

Lights.

6. *The Library.*

A tight spot on DON.

DON

so

as some of you know

I always like to close out

the first executive committee meeting of the year with a little passage from Rumi which is

He holds an old paperback book and reads from it.

Yesterday I was so clever, so I wanted to change the world

Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.

He closes the book.

Because I think it's important to begin in a place of

humbleness and gratefulness

we have an awesome responsibility

those of us in this room

to see that the school community is healthy and vibrant

and that everyone's voice is heard

Slow pull back on lights to reveal ELI, MEIKO, CARINA and WINTER around the table.

The bookshelf that contained SUZANNE's books is empty.

and I will say

I will be honest with you

there was a moment last year when my

my faith in this community wavered

and now I'm in place where I'm

I'm really appreciating what an opportunity that was for us to grapple with our values

and truly consider what they meant

did you want to add anything Carina?

CARINA

oh well

thank you Don

just briefly

I'll just say

thank you for the trust you're putting in me as we continue down this path

and I know
I know not everyone is continuing with us on this journey
and that's okay

because for the people in this room
and the people outside of this room for whom we're holding stake
it's really just a testament to how special a thing it is we have here

because it's a thing we Make Together

Lights. End of Play.