

Comments by Nikki Milevsky of the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA), to the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) Board of Education, Agenda Item 10.3

February 4, 2021

Good evening Members of the board. In the spring of 2018-19, the district made massive cuts to the child development preschool and infant toddler programs which meant cutting services for our most needy students. This resulted in 544 of our preschool slots being given to a neighboring district, which means they are no longer available for our students here in Sac City. You also laid off over 50 teachers and classified staff, many who are still laid off today.

The board was told that you had to make these massive, painful cuts to child development services because of the false assumption that the child development fund encroaches 2.3 million dollars on to the general fund. The district apparently did not want to prioritize resources to support preschool for our community's most impoverished children.

The problem is that you were told what your staff had projected Child Development would encroach that year and you didn't ask any questions. That projected amount was not even in the ballpark of what the actual expenditures ended up being that year.

The District's Escape Business System June Reports shows what really takes place.

What actually happened in 2018-19 is that the child dev program only encroached 388 thousand dollars. That is less than what you pay the superintendent in salary and benefits.

What actually happened in 2019-20 is that your staff told you that child development program would encroach 869 thousand dollars, but it actually encroached ZERO dollars. That is right; ZERO encroachment.

This year you are told you must make cuts to child dev because it is going to encroach 526 thousand dollars, but will it really?

What discussions have there been to identify the sources of these projections and address them? What alternatives have been looked at? What other options are there?

Let's not forget that Public Information Requests revealed written communication between superintendent Aguilar and SETA that showed that he had already cut the deal to slash the preschool and infant toddler program and give millions in grant dollars back to SETA in January 2019. Long before this board and the Parent committee even knew cuts were being considered.

Please do your job and provide the proper oversight and scrutiny these painful decisions deserve before making another terrible mistake that hurts our students.

We heard it said over and over again at the Special Board Governance meeting on Monday night that you as a board have to trust the Superintendent and trust your staff. But really, you owe it to the public to ensure that the superintendent and the district staff are worthy of your trust.

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	isabella sandoval
Comment:	we live in a low income area, so as a student taking these very difficult ib courses aiming for the diploma, it is very unfair to try and make students pay for the exams when we can barely afford it.

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 12:45:10 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Kimberly Niemeyer
Comment:	<p>Although I sympathize with the district's tough choices, I think it's important that you recognize how important small high schools are to families, and without these choices, many of these families might have chosen private schools. My son started out at Cal Middle, and within a short period was completely lost. I pulled him out and put him in a small private school for 8th grade, where he got the attention he needed. I was concerned we would have to chose a private school for high school - but then we looked at the small high school choices SCUSD offers, and were really impressed with Sacramento New Technology High School. The project based learning really fits well with how my child learns best. I also really appreciate too that he is graded not only on what he gets right, but also how he advocates for himself and figures out what he did wrong. Even with distance learning he is engaged and doing well with his classes. I also have another child at McClatchy - and it's a great school for her; but it really wouldn't be an option for my son. Having these small school options are critical for a lot of kids, and if these options aren't supported I think we might lose those kids - perhaps some to private schools, but others would fall through the cracks at the big high schools and at best, spend four years struggling, or at worst, never graduate. Please continue to support Sacramento New Technology High School.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 10:12:00 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Stephanie Backovich
Comment:	We selected LdV because of the excellent eK-8 program. Next year, we will have a daughter in 3rd and a son in 7th. Both are in GATE and both thrive in smaller settings. If the GATE program in the LdV middle school gets cut, we will have to consider relocating him from his friends and the school he loves. This will be another layer of disappointments and hardship added to these kids who have already suffered so much from distance learning. Taking away from the LdV middle school program will also force parents, like us, to have two drop offs and two pick-ups at two different schools for two additional years. The financial difficulties of the district are not the fault of the students nor their parents so please don't take it out on them. Our kids have suffered enough. If you cut the LdV program in any way, our kids will suffer even more.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/1/2021 2:38:29 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Catherine Nguyen
Comment:	<p>As a parent of a New Technolgy High School student, I would like to share why we are at New Tech and the difference it has made in my student's education, and encourage you to learn about the district gem that is New Tech. We are residents of West Sacramento, and chose to attend your district solely because of New Tech. If New Tech was not supported, then we would leave the district and he would attend at his home district, thus our student brings dollars to your district. In fact many students at New Tech come from outside the district.</p> <p>My student thrives at New Tech due to the small size, the teacher involvement, Project Based Learning, and the five areas of grading. My student would be successful academically at any school he attended, but our family values more than just academics. We value raising an individual who is able to speak up, is confident in his ability to work with others, who understands diversity and knows how to work with others.</p> <p>New Tech has had a rough few years, with administrative challenges that were not of its own doing. The teachers have continued to do their job, caring for the students and helping them thrive. The new principal brings enthusiasm and leadership. She is helping New Tech grow in to its mission and it is headed in the right direction. Please give her time to grow New Tech. This school serves students who wouldn't thrive at a big school. Please keep that in mind when you are thinking about New Tech. Not all students are the same, and a one size fits all education system only leaves students behind.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/1/2021 7:53:18 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

<p>Name:</p>	<p>We see through your lies you realize that right? Your governing tactics renewing me of the Trump administrations. Are you trying to push those educators who are at the top of the pay scale? Is this your intention because not advertising and using the POSITIVE budget as a recruiting tool for filling true 111 FTE positions is perplexing and mind boggling! It's counterproductive. Your practice and policy to claim financial hardship does not put kids first! Especially our at risk kids. You put educators first translates to putting kids first! Cutting our salaries and benefits will not solve your fake insolvency. It will only serve to further divide and increase the attrition. Once again, perhaps this is your intention? The kids come first rIght? Especially the most vulnerable like those who attend or want to attend Health Professions yet it is on the chopping block? But the programs at Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood - affluent predominantly white neighborhood are saved???? You know how you can ensure th Otterson</p>
<p>Comment:</p>	<p>Lies do not have the students' best interest at heart. Truth and facts do! If you support and honor the educators and related staff (social workers, vp's, counselors etc) the children will be taken care of to the best of our abilities. Threatening to close schools such as Health Professions only manages to hurt them especially from a social and emotional standpoint. Yet you will save programs in affluent and primarily white neighborhoods such as Caleb Greenwood and Kit Carson. How is this racially equitable? Cutting social workers when we need more to serve our most vulnerable? How can you sleep at night? Cutting benefits to solve your FAKE fiscal deficits is unconscionable. What is your true motivation behind this? Are you trying to push the higher paid educators out in order to get the salaries off the books? In a district with staffing deficits - I believe 111 FTE openings should want to advertise and highlight a positive budget which our district currently has wouldn't you in order to better recruit. Who would want to come to our district with the cuts to benefits and safeties you propose? Students deserve to be educated by certificated staff not substitutes! Why would parents want to enroll or keep their children enrolled in a district with so many vacancies or demoralized educators? Rest assured your behavior is demoralizing but the majority of us still dedicate ourselves to the children everyday. We will continue to do so no matter if you are undermining both educators and students. What will you do? Speak the truth and base your decision on facts? Or continue to perpetuate the lies? Do the right thing! Find your conscience.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 9:09:30 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Joanna Gallagher
Comment:	There is no justification for SCUSD to reduce services to students including: special education, mental health, counseling, music and arts, dual immersion, and other vital programs. If SCUSD can afford a pay increase for Superintendent Aguilar, there's also no need to demand massive reductions to the take-home pay of teachers and support staff.

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/31/2021 1:52:32 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Dear Board Members, it is best practice when developing future budgets that would impact all business operations/people to have a third party audit of current financials so they can align with future budgets. I encourage you to share the financial audit that has been performed by a third party with the SCTA so that there is no discrepancy on what's "real and factual". Taylor
Comment:	Dear Board Members, it is a best practice when developing future budgets that would impact all business operations/people to have a third party audit of current financials so they can align with future budgets. I encourage you to share the financial audit that has been performed by a third party with the SCTA so that there is no discrepancy on what's "real and factual". This will allow for transparency and collaboration in moving forward to protect our teachers, students and district. Remember, we have an opportunity and obligation to our community and children to lead by example, please be mindful of this as you work towards an amicable proposal. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/1/2021 10:21:24 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Kristin Goetz
Comment:	<p>I have been a teacher in this district for 12 years. In the last several years, I have lost faith in our board, especially our Superintendent Aguilar. The focus of our board should be about our students NOT the Superintendents' pocket. Our job is to serve ALL of our students and families.....not just select races or families.</p> <p>To our school board: remember why you ran for this position and remember who you represent. As a teacher in SCUSD, everyday I am working hard to provide to our students and make sure that my teaching & behaviors reflect the mission statement of our district. My question to you all is - are you working everyday to have your actions & behaviors reflect the mission statement of our district????</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/1/2021 1:08:55 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	<p>Dear Board Members, I am a special day class teacher at Rosemont High. I came into teaching as a second career. I love what I do! I even took a 50% pay cut to become a teacher. Leaving that career that had higher pay and required less education for doing what I love, was worth every penny! Obviously I did not go into teaching for the money, but we still deserve a salary that matches the education, skills, and work ethic required to be a successful teacher. How can we be cutting special education when so many programs are impacted and case managers are taking overages? Or while some students are going without a case manager? Every student deserves a quality education and proper support. Our electives are also impacted at our schools. Every summer I spend about 8 hours, outside of my contracted hours, working with admin to try to puzzle piece my students schedule that are on my caseload. Due to the lack of electives and the impacted classes it is extremely difficult to give our students the classes they would like to attend. They deserve this time and opportunity to grow and learn in a creative class like music, art, etc. Please do not cut our health insurance! Our insurance is one of the main factors that keeps me with SCUSD. Our insurance coverage saved my husband's life. The coverage allowed for me to have piece of mind and financial security during the hardest two years of my life when my husband had to have brain surgery. Having this security allowed for me to continue to provide quality education to my students during that time. I have always said I am with SCUSD for life because of the insurance. Please don't place more financial burden on the teachers. This will only hurt the students. So many teachers put in their own money into their classrooms. If we get a reduction in pay we will have to make cuts somewhere. This will not only affect our families but our students as well. I really do love my school, admin, and my students. But if we take a pay/insurance cut I just can't see how I can continue to justify staying with SCUSD where I can get paid more somewhere else. Thank you, Wendy Stevensen Stevensen</p>
Comment:	

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/31/2021 11:59:14 AM

From: lturem@
Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2021 5:13 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: public comment - Feb. 1 SCUSD board meeting

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To members of SCUSD School Board,

My name is Rebecca Turem. I have been employed by SCUSD for 20 years, first as a classified staff member, and for the last nearly 8 years as a certificated teacher. I believe I have shown myself to be deeply invested in this district, and in my career, striving to improve the range, scope and effectiveness of my work as a teacher. I do not view myself, or my colleagues as simply anonymous employees of the school district. All good teachers understand that teaching children is a team effort, requiring dedication, long hours, ongoing professional development, and sincere interest in the education and well being of our clients as demonstrated by weekly CT meetings, ongoing PD, involvement in school activities and counsels. Not to mention countless hours spent beyond the school day, working on curriculum, contacting families, or doing the other work that there is not time in a school day to do. SCUSD employees are not office supplies, we are human beings, and we are the backbone of the district. We and our clients rely on and appreciate greatly the need for our school nurses, social workers, psychologists, elective instructors, after school programs, OT, PT, Speech and Language, instructional and educational aides, counselors, custodial, office and other support persons to provide our students the reinforcement necessary for success. These are people in positions that this school board appears to consider expendable. On one hand, we hear the message- make SCUSD more equitable, more accessible, more interactive and more supportive of our families. All things requiring open communication, trust and transparency. It is that other hand that worries me. The one holding the caution that our school board is not being transparent, equitable, collaborative, or supportive. That our school board by demonstration, seems not at all concerned with building a structure where all stake holders are part of the plan. Last minute board meetings, proposing deep cuts to programs and health care and support personnel, lack of participation in negotiations, and so many other concerning behaviors cause deep unease for a great many parents, certificated, classified, administrative and others. But then, you probably know all of this. I believe we can do better. I want us to be better. Thank you.

From: Christina Otterson
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 11:14 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Public comment

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We keep hearing about these unprecedented times in the news everyday. As a district mental health provider, I have experienced an unprecedented number of mental health events during this year. More than all my previous years with this district. It breaks my heart that our superintendent is still placing our students mental health needs on the chopping block so he can save some money. Cuts to mental health now - is just cruel.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Dorothy McBroom <dmcbroom@scusd.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 7:54 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Budget cuts

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To school Board

Please reject Superintendent Aguilar's cuts to the budget for student services and staff salaries and medical insurance coverage.

Thank you,

Dorothy McBroom

From: Gabby Trejo -
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 5:15 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Public comment

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

My name is Gabby Trejo, Executive Director at Sacramento ACT.

While we can appreciate the challenging financial situation the District is facing, we are extremely concerned about the cuts being proposed and considered by the SCUSD Board. We urge the SCUSD Trustees to prioritize the following as you discern the difficult choices in front of you:

1. **We believe an equity lens must be applied as you consider every cut that is being proposed by measuring the impact of the cuts and considering the number of English Learners, low income students, and students of color that will be impacted by those cuts:** It is clear that some proposed funding cuts target programs that meet the needs of unduplicated students -- low-income, English learners and foster/homeless youth.
2. **Prioritizing mental health & protecting social workers: studies report increased stress, particularly depression and anxiety, of youth due to COVID and systemic racism and we know the suicide rate has increased during the pandemic.** Now more than ever, social workers and other mental health care providers should not be eliminated. SCUSD and the community actually should be providing additional mental health services for youth.
3. **We also urge the district to explore increased revenue options and new revenues to support the students that need it the most and not only focus on cuts to balance the budget.** Sacramento County is in the bottom 1/3 of LEA Medi-Cal reimbursements in the state and we are concerned that a lot of money that could support our students' mental health needs is being left at the table.
4. **Speaking up for the highest-risk students and parents served by specific programs that will be harmed or closed by these cuts, who may not be as well-represented by public communications with the Board.**

Gabby Trejo
Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse typos

From: vriosnunez ·
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:41 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Budget cuts Agenda Item 10.3

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Full Name
Agenda Item 10.3

Child Development programs are an investment in our future. They should not be cut. Cutting employee benefits without salary raises will cause hardship for all employees. Special Education student needs must be met as per state and federal laws. Budget cuts should be made from top administrators starting with the district superintendent.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy A71 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

From: Michele Koehler
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:52 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: 10.3

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Working as a teacher in this district for twenty years, it is always difficult weathering yet another financial crisis. We have been down this path before, therefore choosing to relieve the fiscal "crisis" on the shoulders of the teachers and the students is not only irresponsible as a management group, but it goes against everything you were hired to do. It is so important for the students to continue their chosen educational course and not continue to threaten their educational outcomes. I have watched teachers, students and parents work together to build successful programs only to have their blood, sweat and tears torn from their grasp. Please do the right thing and table many of the cuts that will destroy our students' dreams.

Phyllis Mosley, Karen Wuynh, Jill Sutter, Patricia Benoith
Agenda #10.3-Fiscal Recovery Plan

Good evening Superintendent Aguilar and Board Members.

Last year, Child Development Schoolage teachers, alongside numerous parents from our various fee-based programs spoke to you about the necessity of keeping our before and after school programs. You know that we offer care to our young charges from Leonardo da Vinci, Matsuyama, Martin Luther King and Theodore Judah school sites. You graciously listened and worked with us to continue our programs. And up until the pandemic, we successfully ran our programs and offered care to families who wanted and yes needed something more than a typical recreational program. It is a partnership within the school and a safe haven for children on campus for children while their parents are at work. But it needs care and attention and vision in order to survive.

Last year we made the necessary adjustments to our program, financially, to become more self-sustaining. Parents believed in and wanted what our programs offered and these parents willingly paid substantially more each month for our service. As I stated earlier, our program is more than a typical before and after school recreational program.

Did you know that we are the only program in Sac City Unified that offers care to E.K/T.K students? Do you know that other programs do not offer care to even the Kindergarten students let alone E.K or T. K students? For these students, our state certificated school age teachers offer learning enrichment opportunities that build upon and in some cases expand what is being taught in the classrooms. You may recall many parents stepping forward last year to tell you this and to tell you this is one of the many reasons that value the program. One of our board members had her oldest child in the E.K. before and after school program. Our program offers expanded kindergarten readiness for her son and so many others. The majority of our E.K. students enter Kindergarten academically and socially ahead of their peers. This is but one part of our program that makes us unique and to be honest necessary to our district.

We are like the small businesses in our communities, small but valuable. Sure it's not for everyone but it is absolutely needed for families needing a more specialized program and one that will offer care/service for families with E.K/T.K students. One with state certificated teachers and one that does not have the staff turn over that so many recreational programs have.

We know that the pandemic has left many scratching their heads and wondering how we can come back when so many of our families that needed childcare may have gone somewhere else during our closure. We have asked our administrators about the vision going forward and as usual no seem to have one. Well, the teachers in the trenches have a vision on how we move forward. We understand that without a vision and fade away. We know that our vision and plan moving forth must be one of unity and opportunity. We understand that now is the

time to be who we say we are, Sacramento City "Unified" School District. All participants must be unified and committed to building back our programs bigger and better than before. Now is the time to partner with our classroom teachers like never before to help our children build back any missed learning opportunities and grounds that may have been lost during the pandemic. To provide parents with peace of mind and certainty that they can return to work without worrying about the quality of care their children will be receiving. Now is the time to be honest about our economic situation and to build upon what we have instead of destroying programs, leaving children and families in some of our district's neediest neighborhoods without equal access and opportunities. Now is not the time to threaten programs with unnecessary cuts in order to project those at the top. Now is not the time to worry those in the trenches about expensive and again unnecessary health care changes or whether or not they will be able to maintain or provide for their own families.

We ask that you look at what we have done and hear what we envision moving forward. We ask that you hear us again. See that we have not let you down. Look at the books and the accounting and see that we provided you a plan last year that would move us towards being self sustaining. We brought you plans even when our leadership was willing to sacrifice our programs. We stepped up and cried out to you to give us the opportunity to present ideas on how to become more self sustaining. You heard us and we Thank you. Now, we ask again that you allow us the opportunity to continue to run our programs as we have a vision and a plan for moving forward. A plan to build back better by bridging the gap that has happened because of the pandemic. A plan could provide care and enrichment to a bigger and new population of E.K/T.K students.

Look carefully at the numbers, note that the school age programs did ok, and see the value in keeping our child development programs as we often service some of the neediest children/families in our district. Let's work together to create a vision for service and opportunities that can be as varied and unique as the children in our district. Let's stand in the gap by offering and expanding service to children and families that other district affiliates do not (childcare and enrichment to E.K. and T.K students).

Let's decide if we should give an ear to those that have no vision for the future or who would rather downsize programs because the job may be too much for them. Perhaps we could embrace the mantra of our nation to "build back better". Perhaps it is time to value the opportunities we have and to expand upon them. Perhaps it is time to value the people that faithfully work in the trenches of our programs, to provide them with the abilities to also maintain their own families and livelihood. Building back better means leveling the playing field. Let's not be top heavy or simply provide for those at the top while making drastic cuts or expenses to those on the bottom. Finally let's take every opportunity to be honest, fair and understanding of each other and the children/families we serve. Seek out and hear those with a vision for opportunity and growth and ask that those who have no vision to join us or step aside. Let's be united in our efforts to build back better.

From: Denise Nelson
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:53 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Agenda item 10.3

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Full Name Denise Nelson
Agenda Item 10.3

Superintendent Aguilar and School Board Members,

Union members were encouraged to send a message to the school board to tell them to reject Superintendent Aguilar's Fiscal Recovery Plan that slashes millions to student services and that demands massive takeaways on health insurance, shifting health care costs onto employees, reducing their take-home pay. Despite the indisputably great budget news confirmed by CBO Rose.

Those cuts are drastic. The health care cost-shift does seem a big cut after being used to one of the best health benefits in the state.

However, making the health benefits offered to teachers and staff comparable to those offered in other districts would reduce the deficit significantly while still maintaining very generous benefits and total compensation.

I urge Superintendent Aguilar and the School Board to keep in mind the budget issues the district has been facing for years, and take long-term action rather than the use of one-time funds to maintain a looming deficit and likely take-over, with the added costs of interest and hard cuts made by others without regard to the special needs of our district.

Please do what is necessary to return our district to a healthy organizational status, long term, so we can weather the other crises that are bound to come, so we aren't having to look at cuts to student services every year.

Saying over and over that the money is there doesn't make it so. Numerous audits and warnings from oversight committees outline the problems and offer suggested solutions. Please take the steps needed to address the problems and steer us towards a healthy, sustainable future. I'm sorry that is going to hurt, but we were hurting already and facing further cuts if the unfunded expenses are allowed to continue unabated.

Thank you Superintendent Aguilar and Board members for providing leadership and doing what needs to be done, even if it is difficult or unpopular.

From: jerry hicks
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:57 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Budget

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Full Name Jerry Hicks SBA
Agenda Item 10.3

A single lie discovered is enough to create doubt in every truth expressed.

From: Kara McMahon
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:59 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Agenda item 10.3 - fiscal recovery plan)

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Full Name Kara McMahon
Agenda Item 10.3

The district claims to be in financial trouble every year, but they end with a surplus. The documents show that the district will have enough money and does not need to make cuts. The cuts to students programs are an attempt to try and turn parents against teachers. So they support the district cutting our health insurance. Please focus on the fact that the district is not facing insolvency, and the cuts will hurt students, families, and teachers. This can not pass!!!

From: JONES FAMILY ·
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 10:03 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: 2/4 Agenda Item 10.3 Fiscal Recovery Plan

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FYI-

Think before you act on this item.

It is never appropriate to remove funds from children's school programs; and to do so at this time would be an insult to injury and a middle finger to the communities you serve!

Instead talk to your friends who sit on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors to Defund the Sheriff's Dept; and talk to your friends who sit on the Sacramento City Council to Defund SacPD!

Tell all of them to Refund The People!

Stop The Cuts!

-Misty Jones
Sent from Earth

From: Scott Chase
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 6:07 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment for 2/4/21 Board Meeting, The "fiscal recovery plan" agenda item 10.3

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

"My name is Scott Chase, a 4th grade teacher in the Sacramento City USD. This is my 32nd year of teaching in the district. Prior to becoming a teacher I was a student of SCUSD from 1970 to 1983.

In 2013 the State of California changed its funding formula on how it funds schools. The new formula (Local Control funding Formula) pays districts more money if they have high numbers of students living in poverty, high numbers of students whom English is their second language and high foster care students. 70% of SCUSDs students qualify for these increased LCFF funds. What does this mean? It means that the SCUSD receives \$2,000 more per student than Elk Grove USD and San Juan USD. In 2013 the SCUSD had an annual budget of \$381,121,215. Now the SCUSD has a budget of \$504,534,628, an increase of \$121,413,413 or 32% increase. Revenues for SCUSD are at all time record levels, meaning the district has more funds now than ever before.

In the last 8 years the SCUSD has forecasted huge negative budgets but in fact the district's budget estimates were off by \$126,742,579 in surplus funding. This year the district has a record reserve fund of \$84,699,103. The State of California requires a 2% reserve fund, however the SCUSD currently has an 18% reserve fund. SCUSD revenues will increase by another \$234.8 to \$282.8 million more in the next 3 years. Just this year the district has received \$124 million additional Federal Funds from the CARES Act 1 and CARES ACT 2.

What has the district planned to do with these increased revenues? At a time of a national teacher shortage and a time when the district has over 100 certificated substitutes the district is proposing a \$20 million cut to teachers' medical benefits, requiring teachers to pay out of pocket for their current health plans and cut teachers' pay by an additional 2%. The cuts would **reduce the take-home pay of every educator--for many the cuts could be as high as a 34.6% reduction** in take-home pay. The district is also proposing massive cuts to students services. Superintendent Jorge Aguilar is proposing the following cuts:

Aguilar's proposed cuts include:

- Cuts to Special Education services, particularly inclusionary practices;
- Cuts to Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA)
- Cuts to Child Development
- Cuts to Mental Health Services for Students
- Cuts to Waldorf programs
- Cuts to Dual Immersion Programs
- Cuts to the International Baccalaureate Program
- Cuts to Small High Schools

Our students in our district serve the best possible programs, including early childhood development, and the best and brightest teachers. These massive cuts to teachers' health benefits and services to students will not foster an environment where children will thrive and reach their full potential.

Despite the indisputably great budget news where SCUSD CBO confirmed that Governor Newsom's budget should mean that Sac City proposes a POSITIVELY certified budget in March, Superintendent Jorge Aguilar is continuing to demand that the SCUSD school board unnecessarily slash services to students and that non-administrative staff take huge cuts in their take-home pay. In 2013-2104 the Sacramento City USD had 40,000 students with a total of 166 administrators. Now in 2020-21 the SCUSD has 40,000 students but now has 274 district administrators (108 MORE ADMINISTRATORS).

President Joe Biden once said, "Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget and I'll tell you what you value". By that measure the SCUSD values administrative bloat over serving the needs of our students.

One final point, there are 1,037 school districts in California. The California Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) has issued ***more unfair labor practice complaints against SCUSD in the last 3 years than any other school district in California.***
Sincerely, Scott Chase

From: Kimberly Shaffer <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:28 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Stop the cuts

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

I write to urge you no cuts to services for students especially no cuts to student mental health & counseling .
Agenda Item 10.3

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From: maryann hathaway
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 10:25 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Reject the budget cuts.

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Maryann Hathaway
Agenda Item 10.3

My mother is a special education teacher for high school students and these budget cuts will directly impact the quality of life for her students and for herself.

Please reject these budget cuts. My mother works so hard and cares so much about her students and she is willing and able to fill a role that many other educators shy away from. My mother deserves her full salary and she deserves to continue receiving her benefits without having to dip further into her pockets to pay for medical care.

My mother cares deeply about her students, going so far as to use her own money to provide them with snacks and other goods to help them be successful students.

Her students cannot be successful if their resources are further diminished by these budget cuts and my mother cannot provide the same level of devotion if she is even more stressed about money on top of covid and other factors.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Maryann Hathaway

From: Stacia Andagan
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 11:48 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Common sense student programs as a priority in budgeting

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Full Name - Stacia Andagan

Agenda Item 10.3

Please trust this local teachers union when backed unselfishly by their teachers to solve the district's budget dilemmas moving forward. Please weigh their voice carefully this time instead of backing this superintendent's proposals out of loyalty to your hire. (A successful leader must have the skill to gain consensus). Even brilliant people without the desire to learn this skill over time, should be asked to step aside for the sake of the community they serve.

God bless you in your honest efforts to best serve the community in these awkward times.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Anita Gleason <
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 7:52 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Item 10.3

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Full Name: Anita Gleason
Agenda Item 10.3

To: The school board and superintendent

I'm commenting to protest the proposed cuts in the district to counseling services, arts programs, special education services, and other curricula that are in place to help our students succeed in and outside of the school setting. I find it disturbing that the proposed cuts are in precisely the areas the district, union, and national experts have all identified as critical for our students, especially during these extraordinary times. I also find it disturbing that not only do these proposed cuts come at a time when we are projected to have a positive budget certification, but also as part of a larger trend by the district of stating it is in financial dire straits but the accounting numbers do not appear to match the actual money available or spent. Public data on audits have not matched district projections, and there appears to be little accountability to the public, parents, and other community stakeholders in how money is allocated and spent in every department. I find it hypocritical of the district to put in their mission statement that "SCUSD is committed to helping students graduate as globally competitive lifelong learners who are prepared to succeed in a career and/or higher education" but consistently make budget decisions that undermine those goals. Thank you for your time.

From: pstd hart <
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 9:08 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Agenda item 10.3

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Full Name PeterSean Hart
Agenda Item 10.3

Many of the cuts proposed are unethical and illegal which can lead to massive lawsuits and legal actions. Is Sacramento City Unified School District keen with the idea of making our legal team richer by denying much needed, proven, and well established legal services for our students? We all know the end result, the programs stay. Why waste the time and money?

As for the reduction in the healthcare plan, passing the cost to the employees, is not a good idea. Data has shown when an employee's healthcare suffers the employee gets ill more often. When this happens the employer ends up paying more for sick days and substitutes. We have seen this past year what one virus can do to a community. One virus shut the world down because, and this is a major contributing factor, there was no agency in place to head it off. The world made budget cuts to it's healthcare system, and we all suffered.

We teachers already pay out so much for our students. Let us truly work together and find a way to keep these programs for the students and the healthcare for the staff. My first and suggestion is has the district tried negotiating with the companies we have contracts with for less costly system? If they will not help with this then it should be time we find new healthcare, just as good, at a lesser charge.

Thank you for your time.

Peter-Sean Hart
SCUSD Special Education Teacher

From: G A Tubo
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:31 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: item 10.3

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

It is a relief to see revisions to the Fiscal Recovery Plan that recognize it makes no sense to cut programs that are successfully serving underserved student groups. Decisions based on serving students are the only way SCUSD will ever succeed in bringing equity to our students.

Now is the time to develop a fiscal structure based on a competitive wage and benefit package for all employees so that in addition to maintaining existing Career Technical Education and inclusive practices for students with disabilities, our district can fund, for example, the additional teaching positions to provide inclusive practices at more sites, and the materials and additional staff hours to provide arts and music and sports and robotics at ALL grade schools. It's also time to plan measurable outcomes to determine the effectiveness of policies and programs, so that the most effective practices can be expanded and ineffective practices replaced. Accurate and timely data doesn't collect and analyze itself, so that will require the central office to be staffed and organized to function robustly.

So I hope all board members can see that focusing on serving students doesn't mean neglecting labor partners, nor failing to demand that the administrative portion of the district's budget be used effectively.

Alison French-Tubo
parent

From: C Tillman <ctillman@scusd.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 10:31 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Child Development

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

Full Name Cassandra Tillman
Agenda Item 10.3

I am a child development school age teacher, I have worked with children from birth to high school for over 25 years. I have seen for myself the results of poor decisions that affect a program. Child development is an integral part of a child's formal education. These years help to formulate their future as students. After school programs support the education that takes place in the classroom while providing much-needed support for parents. With today's climate of crime against children quality, after-school programs are the lifeline to their social and emotional care. When we return as you have repeatedly stated there will be a learning gap for some students. Our after school program is of high quality that can help to mitigate that gap. If you are truly invested in the success of our children you will consider how this can be of value to your students. Our after-school program offers not only recreational activities but we use that time for enrichment in language arts, math, and social-emotional development. Children get individualized homework assistance and academic support. These steps that we take will not only help the student but, help the student with higher testing outcomes.

As teachers, we deserve to be active collaborators and not simply compliant with dysfunctional relaxed leadership. Our department teachers work hard each day to provide care to each student. We have a professional right and obligation to children to have an open dialogue with administrators, boards, and parents about the direction of the program. As board members, you have an obligation to maintain a climate for your students and staff where collaboration is open, honest, and fair. Cutting our programs again without real discussion is wrong and it doesn't communicate respect towards the programs.

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Jacki Phillips
Comment:	<p>2/2/21 Dear Board Members,</p> <p>I am a retired teacher having taught for 20 years for Sacramento City Unified School District.</p> <p>I am writing today to encourage you too keep students first in your minds when you are reviewing the SCUSD budget for the 2021-2022 school year. The past year has been very difficult for our students due to long-distance learning.</p> <p>Our next school year has to be free of split classes, teacher lay-offs, and cutting back on our existing programs. Any of these events will make it quite hard for our students to catch up after a whole year and a half of distance learning. Please be reminded that our district has previously claimed to be in budgetary trouble, only later to “discover” that the trouble was not real and it had more money than it thought it had.</p> <p>According to the Sacramento Bee, SCUSD recently received millions from the federal government so I can’t understand why any cuts would be necessary in the coming school year.</p> <p>Please don’t add to our children’s pandemic consequences by causing any additional burdens, such as split classes or terminating ANY existing programs. Please put the kids FIRST!</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Jacki Phillips</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 9:26:29 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Cassandra Boltz
Comment:	I have proudly served the scholars, families, and community member of SCUSD for eight years now. Despite being offered employment by three other area school districts, I chose SCUSD as my home. Year after year, cuts are proposed to the detriment of our students and staff. Students need additional services and supports, now more than ever. Likewise, staff needs their quality healthcare services, which is one of the biggest draws for certificated employment. Although my friends in surrounding districts make substantially higher wages, I always praise our medical benefits and coverage for families. Please reconsider the impact these decisions will have, especially in these unprecedented times.

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 8:20:00 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	10.3 fiscal recovery plan Vu Pham
Comment:	<p>With more than \$200 million in new revenue, the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) needs to reject cuts to student services.</p> <p>The Sacramento City Unified School Board will receive more than \$124 million in federal COVID relief funds and an additional \$100 million in Governor Gavin Newsom's proposed state budget. SCUSD currently has \$93 million in its reserve fund, the highest in SCUSD history!</p> <p>With these dramatically improved finances, there is no justification for SCUSD to reduce services to students including: special education, mental health, counseling, music and arts, dual immersion, and other vital programs. If SCUSD can afford a pay increase for Superintendent Aguilar, there's also no need to demand massive reductions to the take-home pay of teachers and support staff.</p> <p>We urge the Board to reject Superintendent Aguilar's proposed budget cuts and to protect services to all students.</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 7:27:27 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Tiffany Willard
Comment:	NO CUTS!!!! Respect our teachers and students. Cuts are NOT needed and if so take cuts from the top! Not the teachers and students.

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 7:40:56 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Jeremy Peters
Comment:	<p>In email after email, I see Superintendent Aguilar express how the district puts students & teachers first, yet the actions never seem to match the words. From my perspective, the district has not been honest or forthcoming with its budget since I have been in its employ, nor has it been a good-faith partner to the employees who must cover for this disconnect. I am a substitute, and have seen first-hand the dissatisfaction with district leadership in school after school, year after year.</p> <p>If the board wants to repair the damage the superintendent and the previous board have done to the relationship with the district's teachers & students, they will ensure that the actions coming from the district match the lip-service they pay to both. This current budget proposal, once again, seems to do the opposite.</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 7:45:27 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Tara Thronson
Comment:	<p>Tonight we continue to face our well-documented structural deficit. While the non-negotiable options to cut before the Board tonight are much less painful than the options presented at the last meeting, it remains disheartening that we continue to be in a place where we need to cut, rather than have the ongoing revenue available to invest in the programs and people who will allow our children to receive the high-quality education they deserve.</p> <p>Our decision-makers - the District Leadership and Union Leaders - must work collaboratively to find long-term solutions so our children get the education and support they deserve. Make the tough decisions that need to be made to delay a State Loan, and do so while minimizing impacts to students. Find negotiated savings that minimize harm. Work TOGETHER to identify and secure ongoing long-term revenue that will allow us the fiscal stability to "invest in the programs, services, and staff training to support student safety, wellness, academic success and social and emotional well-being," as stated in the resolution considered tonight.</p> <p>We can't let this district go into receivership. Our kids can't continue to wait. They need the adult decision-makers to work together. Now.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 9:33:58 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

<p>Name:</p>	<p>Reject Aguilar's cuts regarding item 10.3. SCUSD is in better than ever before financially. As a special ed teacher to cut inclusionary practices is prejudicial per IDEA. Furthermore cuts to music and arts rob our students of lower income of the only opportunity they may ever have to be exposed to these creative mediums. This denies them access to the arts that more wealthy peers may have options for through their homes. Cuts to smaller high schools would be more of the same. This population needs viable options to the curricula. Many of these students have been placed into continuation schools because other settings did not work. The opportunities they may alternatively access if cut could deny them vital skills and opportunities. This may be our last opportunity to empower them with alternative means of success and tools to graduate and gain employment. Regarding dual immersion classes, I've worked in these special settings. The benefits of our most vulnerable immigrant populations gaining literacy in their language as well as English is a huge gain we can not afford to pull. This gives a head start as do the preschool programs for these populations. In closing we had to strike a few years ago to get our raises and retain our medical benefits, why would the district pull these gains when California is one of, if not the most expensive state in the nation. I suggest Aguilar put his money where his mouth is. Let him lead by cutting his salary 34% which is what many teachers would lose. Let him be the one leading by example and show how he cares for his minority student population by not stripping their access to enrichment opportunities that their white affluent peers can access through other means than school. This is racial and social injustice to strip these opportunities that our most vulnerable students may never again be offered. Don't disenfranchise them further. Why cut med benefits in the cv19 crisis? My insurance helped my husband to die from cv19 in comfort with out worry of bills he would leave to me. The burxen of the loss of his life was enough to contend with I was so grateful to not deal with finance in addition. . In closing I urge you to turn down budget cuts that would harm our vulnerable students and leave benefits in place for our teachers to earn a living wage with vital health care they deserve to care for themselves and in turn their students. Thankyou. Michelle Geerin Alvarez SDC teacher Woodbine Sac Ca. Alvarez</p>
<p>Comment:</p>	<p>Thank you</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 12:20:55 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Lisa Markuson
Comment:	I have been a student of SCUSD from kinder through 12 th grade. I can remember my teachers not having the supplies they needed for the classroom. The number of students in my classes made it impossible for my teachers to give us, the students the individual support and attention needed to help us succeed academically and Socially. Many of my friends craved a healthy role model to see and listen to them. Frequently, there was no one in their home that could provide them with this care. At this moment, you, the School Board can make a difference in the lives of Sacramento's children our future. A difference that will last a lifetime and one you will be proud to share with your children and grandchild. Please use the additional funds to enrich our students. This is why our district has received the increased funding. Children First. Lisa Ann Markuson

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 5:43:37 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Deborah Meltvedt
Comment:	<p>This is my second letter to the board about saving our school this year. I often wonder if these letters make a difference, if teachers are really listened to. But I wonder more if our school district really cares about students and a continued investment in programs that help prepare them for a future in health care. Health Professions High School works hard to provide Sacramento with a diverse workforce that can help the sick and suffering in our community. SCUSD should be a shining leadership in helping make that happen. Cuts that eliminate qualified teachers and reduce salaries and supportive services would result in long term substitutes and a flight of teachers from our district. There are other ways to save costs, but the ones proposed directly hurt both teachers and students and will result in a less qualified workforce in our community. Our school is supported by health care and workforce leadership at UC Davis Health, Kaiser Permanent, Mayor Steinberg's office, and more. Listen to them, listen to teachers, listen to students. History will look back later to see if Sacramento City Unified School district had the courage and heart to invest in equitable health care outcomes and in the financial and academic future of vulnerable and dedicated youth. You can be the heroes who created a clear, supportive pathway for our young people in the health sciences because we need to be prepared for other pandemics or other health emergencies that come our way. Cuts to teacher's health care and salaries and cuts to health care pathways all add up to a district not caring about the lives of teachers who work hard to make a living and shows a poor investment to the future health and a devastating neglect of our student's future academic and emotional lives.</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 7:14:33 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	RAMIRO HERNANDEZ
Comment:	<p>With over \$200 million in new revenue, SCUSD needs to reject Superintendent Aguilar's proposed cuts to student services.</p> <p>Our school district will receive more than \$124 million in federal COVID relief funds and an additional \$100 million in Governor Newsom's proposed state budget.</p> <p>With these dramatically improved finances, there is absolutely no justification for the school board to slash services to students in areas such as special education, mental health, counseling, and dual immersion.</p> <p>On the SCUSD website, Superintendent Aguilar states that, "Racism is part of the current design of our systems, from our schools to our prisons to our neighborhoods." He then encourages the SCUSD community to "[disrupt] inequities each and every day."</p> <p>Well, how in the world does cutting funding for students disrupt racial inequities when over 70% of our students are considered "economically disadvantaged"? When almost 1 out of every 5 students is identified as an English Learner? When nearly half of our students are Latinx, nearly 20% Asian, and nearly 15% African American?</p> <p>I urge the Board to help Superintendent Aguilar live up to his own words regarding racial justice by rejecting his proposed budget cuts.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ramiro Hernandez</p> <p>Parent of an SCUSD student, and employee of SCUSD</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 7:52:08 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Tracy Fleming
Comment:	<p>Our Supt. Aguilar claims that "Racism is part of the current design of our systems, from our schools to our prisons to our neighborhoods." and then encourages our SCUSD community to "[disrupt] inequities each and every day."</p> <p>How does he propose to do this? By CUTTING student services?!!!</p> <p>Just to remind those that may not remember:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In our district over 70% of our students are considered "economically disadvantaged".2. Almost 1 out of every 5 students is identified as an English Learner.3. Nearly half of our students are Latinx, nearly 20% Asian, and nearly 15% African American. <p>With over \$200 million in new revenue, SCUSD needs to reject Superintendent Aguilar's proposed cuts to student services.</p> <p>Our school district will receive more than \$124 million in federal COVID relief funds and an additional \$100 million in Governor Newsom's proposed state budget.</p> <p>With these dramatically improved finances, there is absolutely no justification for the school board to slash services to students in areas such as special education, mental health, counseling, and dual immersion.</p> <p>I would expect the Board to help Superintendent Aguilar live up to his own words regarding racial justice by rejecting his proposed budget cuts to student services.</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 8:34:03 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Walton
Comment:	Our students needs should come first! Our students need us. Any financial cuts to any of our benefits would cause teachers to look for jobs in other districts.

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 8:59:14 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Shana Just
Comment:	<p>Board President Pritchett, Board Members, and Superintendent Aguilar,</p> <p>My name is Shana Just and I am a teacher at Luther Burbank, a community member of Area 5, and a proud grandparent of a kinder student at Crocker-Riverside. For the last 6 years now, including this one, this District has projected multi-million dollar deficits. Only once did the budget actually end in a deficit, but even then it was so small that the District essentially broke even. Four times, the District actually ended with a surplus - sometimes a surplus of tens of millions of dollars. This year, again, the projected budget deficit will disappear and the District will end up with another multi-million dollar surplus.</p> <p>For 3 years, we listened to you claim that the District was months away from budget disaster and State takeover and EVERY SINGLE TIME you have been wrong - you have ended up with huge budget surpluses instead. However, the results of that wolf-crying has been: to cause needless anguish and stress among students, families, and employees; to lose great people, staff and students, to surrounding Districts; the destruction of the trust the community had in your ability to perform your duties honestly and effectively.</p> <p>Meanwhile, you have wasted 6 MILLION dollars on a air cleaning system that not only doesn't clean the air but actually produces formaldehyde, a cancer-causing substance that we aren't even allowed to use anymore in our science classes. You have more than tripled the amount you spend on outside attorneys. You are hiding almost \$90 million extra dollars in the "Books & Supplies" line item, only half of which is CARES ACT dollars. And you have put another almost \$20 million dollars or so budgeting for outside consultants.</p> <p>You don't have a BUDGET problem, you have a PRIORITY problem. Not a single one of these proposed cuts are financially necessary. This District gives a lot of lip service to equity but equity isn't what we see in your actions. James W. Frick once said, "Don't tell me where your priorities are. Show me where you spend your money and I'll tell you what they are." It is past time to prioritize providing students with the best, most equitable educational opportunities around. I urge you, prioritize students and do not approve these cuts.</p>

Speaking as: Employee and community member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 9:13:54 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Catherine Warmerdam
Comment:	<p>Regarding the Fiscal Recovery Plan, cuts that would have reduced or eliminated student-centered programs and services have been taken off the table. Many families are breathing a sigh of relief. But we would be mistaken to believe that this is the end of the story. Our district is still facing a financial crisis. Receivership is still looming. That option is unacceptable because it will do the most harm to students.</p> <p>I am coming to the board once again to call for a systemic approach to addressing the crisis. Siloed cuts like the ones in the Fiscal Recovery Plan are inadequate for closing the gaping hole in the budget. In addition to negotiated solutions, we need to look holistically at how the district and its schools operate. This calls for a reimagining of how we can deliver an excellent education to students. If we act now, our community can have thoughtful debates about opportunities for growing successful programs, boosting enrollment, and achieving smart consolidations and collaborations.</p> <p>Parents: I challenge us all to look beyond the borders of our own schools when thinking about how cuts affect kids. We mustn't fall into the trap of pitting schools against schools as we fight for limited resources. We have to think bigger.</p> <p>Finally, I urge the board and Superintendent Aguilar to begin a dialogue among yourselves and with the larger community about creative cost savings while we still have the luxury of deciding our own fate.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 9:56:03 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Maria Pagan
Comment:	<p>Good Evening Superintendent and Board Members,</p> <p>As a former parent of your district I am disheartened to hear that during a nationwide pandemic you're willing to cut mental health services to children. Our students are struggling with anxiety, depression, isolation and some even with suicidal ideation. The districts social workers not only conduct suicide risk assessments, district wide crisis response, counseling, psychoeducational groups and SEL lessons that are VITAL to our students socioemotional well-being but are potentially saving a child's life, do better by our children eliminating five social worker position will not solve your budget deficits, making cuts will leave children at risk.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 11:28:52 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Roger Dix
Comment:	<p>It is ridiculous with the record surplus the district has, that there is even a discussion about cuts. That would be horrible financial management to wind up getting penalized by the state because the district has too big of a reserve. In two years the legal maximum reserve will be 10% well under the current 17%. Instead of hoarding massive millions of dollars the money such as the corona virus funds should be used to keep class sizes under control and not push class sizes to the absolute legal limit and make other drastic and completely unnecessary budget cuts that would do a lot to show that students needs are not a top priority. With the current budget, the district has an opportunity to show the community that is committed to providing a first class education. Why is the district every year always crying out that budget is projecting a deficit but when the final numbers for the year come in it is a surplus and often a very significant surplus.</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 11:39:40 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Emily Hurley
Comment:	Please don't cut paying for the exam fees!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 11:40:47 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Cindy von Biela
Comment:	My son Zach was a student in Special Education. He received a very poor education and has not been able to get a decent job. He dropped out of school and never earn a High School diploma and the carwash was the only place that will even interview. He is still working at the carwash and he's 34 years old. Don't cut school programs!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 11:43:28 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	The district claims to be in financial trouble every year, but they end with a surplus. The docs show that the district will have enough money and don't need to make cuts. The cuts to student programs are to try and turn parents against teachers so they support the district cutting our health care. focus on the facts that the district is not facing insolvency, and the cuts will hurt students, families and teachers. This can't pass!! MacGuidwin
Comment:	The district claims to be in financial trouble every year, but they end with a surplus. The documents show that the district will have enough money and don't need to make cuts. The cuts to student programs are to try and turn parents against teachers so they support the district cutting our health care. Focus on the facts that the district is not facing insolvency, and the cuts will hurt students, families and teachers. This can't pass!!

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 11:47:09 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Jack von Biela
Comment:	I when to the public school system and was given a lousy education. There was not enough money spent on student and programs. I really missed out, even the field trips were cut out. My older brother was able to on the 6th grade field trip, it was a week long field trip. It was cut out do to costs by the time I got to the 6th grade. Spend the money on the kids!

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 11:51:24 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Suzi von Biela
Comment:	I was lucky, my parents spent the extra money and sent us to Parochial School. I received an exceptional education. My friends that went to public school and were in the same grade were academically 2 grades behind me. Save the programs give our community the future citizen they deserve.

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 11:57:38 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Sarah Williams Kingsley
Comment:	<p>I am relieved to see that the Fiscal Recovery Plan presented at the December board meeting has been changed so that teacher and staff positions directly serving students that were "over ratio" are no longer slated to be cut. The proposals were hasty and poorly designed to meet an arbitrary request from several board members made in October for a list of things they were allowed to cut without negotiation. Students would have suffered so that elected officials could look like they were taking action.</p> <p>What remains of the non-negotiated cuts are still harmful to segments of our student population that need our help. It is a stain on our district that we as a community don't have a complete accounting of programs offered to our students at every school site, their cost, their funding and their impact. Without it the community has no way to evaluate the effectiveness of any programs to decide what works, what we want to continue, and what we should cut due to ineffectiveness. Without an accurate inventory and evaluation, the district and the community are trying to find our way out of the dark without a flashlight.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 11:59:39 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Ryan Fong
Comment:	<p>As our Board and community contemplate the best course of action to address our District's well-documented structural budget deficit, I would remind us all to think about why we have the structural budget deficit, and what actions of the receiver we are seeking to avoid or delay? I would also ask us all to think about whether the cuts being contemplated, would stop or significantly delay the timing of our District going into receivership. The focus should be on where our budget is out of alignment with other similar school districts, which is in its salary and benefits, and which have been well-documented to be well-above other comparable school districts.</p> <p>Cutting programs or other expenditures that directly and positively impact students now, which would be just those sorts of programs and expenditures that we are seeking to avoid by seeking to avoid receivership, makes little sense. Please place focus and attention on cutting where the problem lies.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 11:59:43 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	No question presented? Aimee O'Brien
Comment:	<p>I strongly oppose any cuts at the current time. We have ample monies in reserve. The state and federal government are providing funds to make sure our students and staff survive and heal from Distance Learning. To cut services at this time would be cause even more irreparable harm. There will be a need for ALL of our student to have mental health services after this. I see it through the screen, hear it through the phone calls, read it in texts that come from 7am to 10pm. Our kids are hurting. Our parents are exhausted and at wits end. Our teachers entire days have become work, sleep, and that is it. A 10 hour work day is normal at this point, even on weekends. It is unsustainable, but to keep us all safe from COVID, we have to do this. Staff now has increased mental and physical health needs. Cutting our health care at this point would be a slap in the face, an action of complete disrespect, and a clear message that you have NO idea the exhaustion level we have. We are working 10 times harder, for 1/10 of the success rate. Our kids need engagement and fulfillment when we return. They need art class, they need to be challenged by peers in IB, they need to express themselves in dual immersion programs, they need safety and understanding from teachers and support staff. This is not the time to be taking away from our students. We need to be doing everything that we can to make the most of the funds that are given to us specifically for these reasons. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 5:33:08 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	These services are essential to ensuring that all of our children's needs are met. Cutting their funding would be detrimental to the health and well-being of our children. Diamond
Comment:	These services are essential to ensuring that all of our children's needs are met. Cutting their funding would be detrimental to the health and well-being of our children.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 7:09:42 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 1, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Joanna Gallagher
Comment:	There is no justification for SCUSD to reduce services to students including: special education, mental health, counseling, music and arts, dual immersion, and other vital programs. If SCUSD can afford a pay increase for Superintendent Aguilar, there's also no need to demand massive reductions to the take-home pay of teachers and support staff.

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/31/2021 1:51:03 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 1, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Brett Williams
Comment:	Superintendent Aguilar, members of the board, I am hopeful that you all will recognize that the positive certification of the budget combined with years of surpluses will show that drastic cuts to essential programs is not necessary. I ask that you stop treating teachers as pawns. We are the critical connection between students and their communities right now. Don't turn your backs on that fact. Thank you for your time and your service.

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/31/2021 8:07:54 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 1, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	TRacy Adams
Comment:	<p>Hello Board Members,</p> <p>My name is Tracy Adams and I have been a teacher for the last 12 years in your district, but more importantly I am a parent of a student in this district and a friend to many other parents or past parents in this district. Our district is at a crossroads and it is essential we make some choices to end up on the right path. Due to recent events (budget issues, negative publicity, and COVID) our district has NOT been portrayed in a positive light. In fact, I have had more friends tell me sheepishly how and why they have left our district, especially those in high school. Right now, with this board, you have a chance to change this!! With a new board, a new state budget, and COVID funds we need to become a district that leads and shines. That is not possible when we continue down the road of budget cuts and lay-offs, especially because in the past, these budget cuts have not been proven to be as necessary as some would lead people to believe.</p> <p>I live in the San Juan School District and drive my child into Sacramento because Sac City is one of the only districts that has the small high school options. These options bring families from other districts into our district and any talk of cutting those programs at New Tech and other small high schools, will continue the enrollment loss and disenfranchise families.</p> <p>This is the EXACT wrong approach to saving our district. As a district we need to be offering better options and supporting our current programs. For example, instead of thinking of laying off teachers and support staff for students, we should be maintaining our current staff level in order to possibly have intervention teachers and unofficial smaller class sizes. Especially after COVID and distance learning, we need students to have extra support, not splits and less resources. This is the time to make a real difference in our district's public perception and its ability to reach ALL students.</p> <p>Please, please take the time to really look at the district budget from the central office and the past history of their gloom and doom predictions, and keep what is best for students in your minds. This is not the time to be cutting programs and staff. This is the time to be making our district shine to recruit more students. The ONLY way to do this is</p>

to fund program and current staffing levels, not cut. We will continue to lose students if we cut programs and have lots of splits next year.

So I beg you, as both a parent of a student at a small high school and as a teacher who needs to make up for COVID loss of learning, don't cut things for the 2021-2022 school year. We DO have the resources to continue these programs and staff for at least one more year. Don't repeat this district and boards past mistakes. Please put our students first!

Thank you Hannah's mother

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Yes Anderson
Comment:	<p>2020 has made such a tragic impact on all of our lives, so many students have been lost and has fallen through the cracks of our system. We can't continue to let this happen and with the proposed cuts that's exactly what will happen. We can't afford anymore cuts to our staff or programs.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 10:50:07 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Tiffany Willard
Comment:	NO CUTS!!!!

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 7:38:46 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Lynnette Weaver
Comment:	<p>My name is Lynnette Weaver and my triplets graduated from George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science in June of 2020.</p> <p>I am writing to urge you not to cut programs at Carver but rather to use your resources to highlight Carver and attract more families to this outstanding high school. SCUSD is the only district in the nation to have K-12 public Waldorf schools. Let me repeat that: the only district in the nation to have K-12 public Waldorf schools. Families travel from outside district boundaries to attend these schools. Over 30% of Carver students come from other districts, bringing their ADA dollars with them. This is worthy of preserving and promoting.</p> <p>Despite our 36 mile round-trip commute from Rio Linda, my sons attended George Washington Carver because it was important to me that my children attend a Waldorf school from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Families like mine are incredibly lucky to have George Washington Carver, a public Waldorf high school to attend. In addition to the Waldorf curriculum so skillfully delivered by the faculty, I was equally attracted to Carver because of the social and environmental justice instruction that is woven into the fabric of the academic program. Through their social justice curriculum, my boys learned about redlining here in Sacramento and taught us about these racist policies and practices. While receiving this incredible high school education, my three sons earned 12 to 24 units of college credit each. Imagine the money my family will save on college tuition as a result of them having earned these credits while at Carver. SCUSD needs to support Carver, as well as all the innovative specialty programs in the district, by finding ways to highlight and promote them and make it easy for students to enroll in these unique and high quality schools.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 10:48:26 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Sarah Damerow
Comment:	<p>My name is Sarah Damerow. It was my plan for over 8 years that my daughter attend George Carver Washington - the only public Waldorf High School in California! My daughter attended a private Wadorf kindergarten in Auburn (I was living a Champaign lifestyle on a beer budget!) so we moved to the San Juan School District and got into the lottery to attend Golden Valley Charter. I hoped we would not need a lottery to get into Carver, and we did not!</p> <p>Carver draws families from out of the disctrict because there are seven Waldorf feeder schools (private, public and charter) from Davis to El Dorado Hills. This is the only free Waldorf high school. Thank you for listening and keep up the good work!</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 8:29:18 PM

From: swright;
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021 6:51 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Cc: Christina Pritchett; Darrel Woo
Subject: Budget Cuts ~~23~~ 10.3
Attachments: Budget Cuts Letter Kristi Wright.docx

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On Sunday, December 19, 2018 at 12:30 a.m., my husband and I were woken up by the police at our front door. Our 13-year-old daughter was texting a suicide prevention hotline. She had made the decision to take her life. Thank God her attempt failed. Our daughter has learning disabilities that the mainstream schools she attended in another district were not able to adequately address, leaving her ashamed, embarrassed, and with failing grades. To make matters worse, she was bullied at school. Her self-esteem was crushed and her emotional health was dangerously fragile. That night in December, she nearly became another statistic: a student who sees no way out of a cycle of desperately needing, but not receiving, academic and social supports promised by schools that fail to deliver.

It became clear that mainstream school was no longer an option for her. Unfortunately, I was completely unaware of what else was available. We knew we could not afford private schools, and home-schooling was not an option as I worked full time. Finally, after reaching out on social media, I learned about a Waldorf option. My daughter was accepted at Golden Valley, a public charter Waldorf school in the San Juan Unified School District, for her 8th grade year. She immediately began to flourish academically and socially and to build back confidence in herself and trust in her school's ability to keep her safe and meet her needs. During her year at Golden Valley Waldorf School, we were able to wean her off anti-depressant and anti-anxiety medications.

Our daughter now attends George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science (Carver High School), the public Waldorf high school in the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD). She is in her freshman year. Although she is challenged by the distance learning platform and her own learning disabilities, with the help of her teachers, she is successfully learning strategies to navigate both. Her teachers are supportive, available, interested, and engaged. Most importantly, she does not feel vulnerable anymore. She feels seen, heard, and safe. Her social and emotional health is the best it's been in over 5 years! Carver high school is providing our daughter what she needs to succeed.

I share this personal story with you to illustrate a point and to ask two questions. It was only through our affiliation with Golden Valley that we learned about Carver High School, the first public Waldorf high school in America, a hidden gem in SCUSD, a school where 95% of the student body reports feeling safe, where 45% of the students come from out of district. Why doesn't the district widely advertise and promote Carver so that students who would thrive in this environment easily know about it? Secondly, what can be done so that Carver can visit middle schools within and outside of the district to inform 8th grade students about this program?

I'm truly distressed to think about what will happen to Carver H.S. with the proposed budget cuts and most importantly, what will happen to my daughter without this life-saving education?

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Laura Powell
Comment:	<p>My name is Laura Powell and my son is a tenth grader at GW Carver High School. He attended Albert Einstein Middle School and we chose Carver because he felt he would be "lost in a crowd" at Rosemont High School. I also liked that Carver has a diversity and inclusion focus. One of my coworkers who is a recent Catholic high school grad said her class was forced to read "Huckleberry Finn" out loud, and it created a lot of pain for black students to hear and say the "n" word. I learned about Carver by driving by it when my children had swimming lessons at the park across the street. I was surprised that we had a choice like Carver in our neighborhood-- it's like a private high school without the tuition. Most people I speak with haven't heard of Carver. Why is that? It seems like SCUSD would do everything in its power to increase enrollment in this small, college prep program and draw families from out of district.</p> <p>It is in SCUSD's best interest to actively publicize Carver and other specialty programs to increase enrollment and support growth of the unique programs that are attractive to and needed by so many students throughout the county looking for an alternative and seeking education that will meet each individuals needs.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 10:20:09 AM

From: Ireland Williams
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 10:00 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: 10.3 Fiscal Recovery Plan

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Dear Board President Pritchett, Superintendent Aguilar and esteemed Board Members,
My name is Ireland Williams and I am a sophomore at George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science. I believe the Fiscal Recovery Plan is a misguided plan to balance a budget-- a critical endeavor. However, by supporting the growth of Carver high school, you will increase enrollment and increase revenue for the school and for the district.

My friends at Carver and I attend the school because it is a unique and special high school in the area. I have been home-schooled for 5 years and chose carver to complete my high school education. I chose Carver because it is different: small, creative, academically rigorous, and a place where I can be myself and flourish. There are students like me that haven't heard of Carver or the other small schools. WE need to hear about these options! Help grow the school and help our education thrive by publicizing these programs widely. There are kids out their who desperately need these small schools!

Sincerely, Ireland

Anne Maretti

From: Karina Aguilera
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2021 3:45 PM
To: Anne Maretti
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Board of Education

Categories: Follow-up

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02/03/2021 3:45pm

Putting Children First

WEBFORM SUBMISSION

Submitted by user

Name:
Karina Aguilera

Email:

Phone Number:

Student Name (if applicable):

School (if applicable):
Luther Burbank High School

Comment or Question:
Dear Board Members,

I would strongly urge you to reconsider the budget reduction item which would eliminate paying for student's IB and AP exams included in the Proposed Fiscal Recovery Plan (Item 10.3). As a former student who had the privilege of participating in the IB Programme at Luther Burbank

High School, I can undoubtedly attest that eliminating this funding would be a great disservice and obstacle imposed on students' ability to participate in these programs. Currently, the fee for one IB exam is slightly above \$100 and AP exams are slightly below \$100. Regardless, the cost for a full diploma IB candidate would be well over \$600 which is large cost and burden to foist onto a vast majority of socioeconomically disadvantaged students who partake in these programs.

I want to speak from my experience, as a first-generation low-income high school student, the burden of a \$600 price tag from a program would greatly disincentivize my parents from allowing me to partake (especially since my sibling and I were both apart of it). Several, if not most, of my fellow classmates who also faced similar economic hardships (and to a greater extent), may have been withheld the opportunity to participate due to those economic barriers.



As one of SCUSD's Core Values included in the Strategic Plan for 2016-2021, "Equity: Commitment to reducing the academic achievement gap by ensuring that all students have equal access to the opportunities, supports and the tools they need to be successful", I believe that continuing to fund the payment of both IB and AP exams would allow for this Value to continue striving forward. Equity and equal access to programs such as this should remain accessible in order to continue bridging the gap and allow students pursue their academic potential without socioeconomic limitations.

Thank you all for taking the time to listen, and your continued vital work through these challenging times.

Respectfully,

Karina Aguilera

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Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Lana Harris
Comment:	<p>How do you intend to support Luther Burbank's student population if you remove the IB exam fees? Approximately half of the schools' student body currently takes part in the IB program currently and with about 88% of the student body at a socioeconomic disadvantage, they will not be able to participate if the exam fees are no longer paid for. Taking and passing an IB exam will afford these students college credits, giving them the leg up they so desperately need to higher education. Please reconsider your stance on removing paid IB exams for Luther Burbank. This amazing program would crumble without it and we cannot afford for our school district to abandon these underserved and underprivileged children. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 9:21:34 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Ántonia Peigahi
Comment:	<p>I am a long-time faculty member at CSU, Sacramento - an institution which draws many of its first-year students from Luther Burbank High School. I am distressed to hear that the board is considering cutting IB exam fees in order to save IB programs at Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood (disclosure - I have children at both Kit and Caleb).</p> <p>Luther Burbank students are one of the local populations that CSU, Sacramento serves. Many Burbank students enter CSUS with IB units. These units enable students to expedite their time-to-degree at CSUS and concomitantly lower the cost of their public education experience. Further, students who have engaged with a rigorous educational program such as IB (which almost half of all Burbank seniors engage with) are often better prepared for challenges they face at the University.</p> <p>The IB exams cost less than \$80k at Luther Burbank and provide Burbank students a number of educational advantages as they progress towards the dream of a college degree. Eliminating the subsidization of IB exams at Burbank would effectively end the program and thus disproportionately disadvantage students of color (97% of Burbank students are BIPOC) and students who are socio-economically disadvantaged (88% of Burbank students). I urge the board to reconsider the elimination of the IB examination fees and protect a critical program for Sacramento Region students.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 10:23:00 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Elizabeth Campbell
Comment:	<p>I have written to the board in the past regarding cuts to IB schools that would effectively eliminate those programs. I was alarmed to see that while the board seems largely in agreement that cuts to staff at IB schools should be avoided, one board member has suggested that instead the funding for IB exams should be cut. This is a shockingly inequitable proposal.</p> <p>My understanding is that this action would hit students in Luther Burbank's IB program the hardest. This would be terrible. Burbank's IB program is the oldest, largest, and most successful in the district, and serves the most marginalized students. It is a vital program that serves a population of students that are often dismissed, forgotten, and underserved by our community.</p> <p>As a parent at another IB school and a friend of a teacher at Luther Burbank, I had the extreme privilege of accompanying a group of Luther Burbank students on a field trip two years ago. (Unlike schools in wealthier neighborhoods, Burbank does not have an army of parents with the time and resources to volunteer, donate, and advocate at school board meetings). I cannot overstate how impressed I was with those students, with their commitment, their energy, the support they showed for one another. At the same time, the struggles many of them had to overcome were also impossible to ignore: when permission slips needed last minute signatures, often the legal guardian was not a parent, but an older sibling barely out of school. When we traveled to and from school on crowded public transportation, our fellow riders openly expressed shock that these bright, beautiful manner kids were from Luther Burbank.</p> <p>These kids work so hard and have been so successful in their program, but I would wager that not a single one of them has the ability to pay the hundreds of dollars in fees to take the IB exams that make their hard work worthwhile. Taking away this funding would be a shocking abdication of our responsibility toward these kids. Those kids and the Luther Burbank IB program are among the best that Sacramento has to offer, and instead of disdain and ongoing hardship, we owe them celebration, support, and full funding.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 11:21:16 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Sierra Northcutt
Comment:	This would be unfair for students attending a title I school to pay for these expensive tests considering the fact that a lot of them can't afford them.

Speaking as: I'm an employee in the mayor/city council department and I'm a student at Luther Burbank

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 12:30:50 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Mercedes Torres
Comment:	Please do not cut funding for the IB program at Luther Burbank. As a recent graduate, that program basically ensured my acceptance to a really good University. Without that program, I would not have been challenged and what is learning without being challenged academically.

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 11:11:56 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Samantha Hart
Comment:	<p>Please do not make budget cuts to the IB program and make the students pay for their IB exams. This is already an underfunded school attended by kids from financially underprivileged families and those kids work so hard in those classes to create the opportunity for a better education in college. They deserve to be able to take the tests free of charge, especially since during their senior year they already have other costs associated with graduating. This would be a hard blow to them but also to the school. The IB program is a benefit to the school and kids who might have considered going to LBHS specifically for the IB program may decide to go elsewhere if they have to pay for their exams. There is no point in taking all those classes and working so hard if they can't even afford the exams at the end.</p>

Speaking as: Alumnus

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 10:22:18 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Christian Landa
Comment:	<p>February 2nd, 2021</p> <p>Dear SCUSD School Board Members,</p> <p>On behalf of Improve Your Tomorrow (IYT), I, Christian Landa, the current Program Director at Luther Burbank High School, am asking you to retain funding for the IB Program at Luther Burbank High School. By not covering the exam fees for IB, you will be effectively ending the program. Now is not the time to remove an IB program that has positively shaped the outcomes of students of color in the South Sacramento area.</p> <p>Over the last four years, IYT at Luther Burbank High School has had at least a dozen students from each cohort eligible and/or enrolled in at least one IB class, as well as IB Diploma candidates. These same students typically enroll into a CSU or UC with college credits that inevitably help in obtaining their graduation status sooner than most students. I have witnessed many students in general, and IYT students in particular, enter into college with the preparedness and skills needed to succeed because of the IB program. They are not shocked by the amount of work necessary to pass a college course. They feel prepared to write college level essays and take college level exams. This program is desperately needed if we are to ensure our students of color have an opportunity to achieve prosperity.</p> <p>The IB Program at LBHS high school, since it was initiated, has strived to proportionately serve and enroll students of color into its program. The goal has been to ensure that the ratio of students enrolled into the IB program emphasized students of color in order to provide equitable access to college in the long-term. Improve Your Tomorrow's overall goals work concurrently with this framework, as we encourage all eligible students, but specifically students of color, to represent themselves as top-tier scholars. This framework applies to our overall vision: a nation in which men of color are overrepresented in higher education, and underrepresented in the criminal justice system and leaders in their community.</p>

Speaking as: Improve Your Tomorrow College Academy

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 9:49:33 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Katie Glover
Comment:	<p>PLEASE do not cut the funding for the IB exams for Burbank students and their families. I graduated from Burbank in 2009 and entered Sac State with college credits under my belt thanks to the IB program and those exams. I only took 1 exam, but I had so many friends who were in the full program. That would have been a LOT of money for those exams. I have gone on to graduate college and now work for the State. My friends who went through the full program have done AMAZING things. One is an optometrist. One is in medical school. One is a teacher.</p> <p>What I'm trying to convey is these Burbank kids have great potential. Please do not put another barrier in their way! Cover the costs of these exams.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 7:29:13 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Claudia Aguilar
Comment:	<p>A quien corresponda: Por medio de la presente me permito solicitar a usted su valiosa intervencion a las autoridades correspondientes para que no priven a nuestros estudiantes de la Luther Burbank HS, del beneficio que conlleva el programa IB. De la manera mas atenta le pedimos reconsideren la propuesta de cobro del programa y/o cancelacion, ya que los recursos economicos no son suficientes para cubrir tales cuotas, especialmente durante estos tiempos tan dificiles en medio de una gran Pandemia de COVID-19. Nuestra comunidad necesita de jovenes exitosos para el beneficion de esta nacion. El IB program es una excelente herramienta y un gran beneficio para nuestros estudiantes.</p> <p>Le agradecemos su atencion de parte de la comunidad de la Luther Burbank HS.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 9:39:19 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Anne Bradley
Comment:	<p>I strongly encourage the Board continue to pay IB exam fees for Burbank IB students. As community member who has worked as an academic counselor at at a local college, I have seen first hand the benefits students who participated in IB programs have achieved in terms of academic preparation, critical thinking skills, etc. However, to gain a key benefit, college credit, from the IB program, students must take and pass the IB exams.</p> <p>A few things to keep in mind about Burbank:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-about 97% of Burbank students are Black, Indigenous, or people of color-about 88% of Burbank students are socio-economically disadvantaged-Burbank is the ONLY honors program in the district in which Latinx students are NOT under-represented (compared to the larger school population)-Burbank's African-American students are slightly OVER-represented in the IB program-The IB program has grown exponentially over the last 16 years, and it now serves almost half of all Burbank seniors to some degree. <p>Considering all these factors, it seems likely that cutting the IB exam fees for a population that most likely cannot pay the fees out of their own pockets could lead to drastically reduced enrollment in the IB program.</p> <p>As a community member, I cannot support such a decision which would have outsized impact on Burbank students. They deserve the same access to all the benefits of a rigorous, college-preparatory IB program, just as students at less diverse Sacramento high schools have.</p> <p>Please consider matching your actions regarding educational equity to your words. Thank you, Anne Bradley</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 9:36:25 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	<p>As a former IB Diploma candidate at Luther Burbank High School would like request the Sacramento School District to not cut off the fees to pay for the IB tests for the students in its school. The program gives us as students a better potential to do better in college. If I don't take the IB tests then taking IB classes are for no use, which would make me to drop out of the IB program, and I believe my peers would do the same, which in result not many students would be in the IB program. If not many students are in the IB program, then what is the use of it having IB level classes? The school district's reputation will start degrading, for not giving/providing its schools with education opportunities such as the IB program. Many students like me will be unable to pay for the IB exams, so that is why I'm suggesting to reconsider your decision. Thank you. Prasad</p>
Comment:	<p>As a former IB Diploma candidate at Luther Burbank High School would like request the Sacramento School District to not cut off the fees to pay for the IB tests for the students in its school. The program gives us as students a better potential to do better in college. If I don't take the IB tests then taking IB classes are for no use, which would make me to drop out of the IB program, and I believe my peers would do the same, which in result not many students would be in the IB program. If not many students are in the IB program, then what is the use of it having IB level classes? The school district's reputation will start degrading, for not giving/providing its schools with education opportunities such as the IB program. Many students like me will be unable to pay for the IB exams, so that is why I'm suggesting to reconsider your decision. Thank you</p>

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 2:35:16 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Kate Lenox
Comment:	The district needs to spend some of its reserve money instead of cutting spending for special programs and the arts. Doesn't the reserve exist for situations like we find ourselves in now? Why is it cutting funding to the IB program at Luther Burbank and to music programs? The district will be receiving an in flux of cash from state and federal sources. It is sending a positive budget to the county. Stop hoarding cash and slashing services. Support our students!

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 4:34:10 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Do not cut funding for Luther Burbank IB program. This is a title 1 school where students do not have the luxury of choice to attend a private school or commute to a different program. If you cut this you will be increasing inequality for students of color and poor students who will not earn college credit. Cut programs in wealthy schools if you must, but do not decimate a program designed to help reduce long term inequality. Renton
Comment:	Do not cut funding for Luther Burbank IB program. This is a title 1 school where students do not have the luxury of voice to attend private school or another program. By cutting the IB exams you effectively stop poor students from getting college credit. If your goal is to reduce inequality you should fund more programs like Luther Burbank's IB program.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 5:21:19 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Lang Thao
Comment:	<p>I wanted to express my concerns as an alumni of Luther Burbank HS (class of 2013) who took part in the IB program. The Board members discussed not wanting to make program cuts to IB, which was their reason for "saving" the IB programs at Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood. They appear not to realize that cutting IB exam fees would cut Burbank's IB program. Cutting IB and AP exam fees would mean Burbank students could no longer participate in IB, effectively ending the program. Burbank's IB exams cost less than \$80k, and 228 students were served last year. Burbank has no fundraising arm (or ability) to cover the costs of tests for students. The program has grown exponentially over the last 16 years, and it now serves almost half of all Burbank seniors to some degree. About 88% of Burbank students are socio-economically disadvantaged. About 97% of Burbank students are Black, Indigenous, or people of color. Additionally, Burbank is the ONLY honors program in the district in which Latinx students are NOT under-represented (compared to the larger school population). Burbank's African-American students are slightly OVER-represented in the IB program. Please keep this information in mind, as many underprivileged students need these tests to be paid for like I did when I was a student.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 6:00:04 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Julie Castro-Feliciano
Comment:	<p>I have 2 students currently enrolled at Luther Burbank High School. Both students are in the IB program. Cutting the fees to cover the exam would be a huge blow to the IB program and to the school. Burbank is already a high school in an area not considered desirable and most of the students attending the school are low income. The IB program attracts students to attend the school that may have looked elsewhere. It gives kids an opportunity to take advanced classes that can not only add weight to their grade to give them a higher GPA to look more desirable when applying for scholarships and/or to colleges, but it affords them the opportunity to take these exams to earn the college credits. If these kids that already may not have the financial or family resources to pay for the exams have to pay out of pocket, then what would the point of them signing up for the program be? Once they see that they have to pay for these exams and know they can't afford it they would either not register for IB or attend another high school. The school is 100% free lunch so what makes ppl think these kids can pay \$120 per exam?! Please don't cut payment for these IB exams. These kids are already at a disadvantage. You can literally look down Florin Road at Kennedy High School (both schools in the same district) and without knowing anything about the schools clearly tell from the appearance of one school over the other which would be the more desirable school. If you're going to make cuts then look at a school that has more property tax money going to it and families that can financially afford to pay more out of pocket. Thank you for your time.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 7:52:06 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Jewels Vang
Comment:	<p>It is important that the IB exam fees are not cut at Luther Burbank. Luther Burbank is located in a lower class neighborhood and the majority of students attending don't have the money to pay out of pocket for IB exams. To make matters worse families are going through detrimental financial situations right now and to hear that there is going to be a cut for the IB exam fees is very disappointing to hear. It is even more disappointing to know that the fees being cut at a lower income school was an option that the school board thought upon. Students that go to Burbank rely heavily on the IB exam fees being paid because we already can't pay out of pocket and to be the class of 2021 hearing this announcement last minute probably wouldn't even give us time to come up with or work for the money in time. It's upsetting to know that this means that a good majority of us will not be able to take the IB exams and their hard work over our high school years will be in vain. Also, for the classes after 2021 at Burbank it takes away their option of wanting to be in the IB program if the cuts go into place and the IB classes being our way of taking advanced and higher level classes. Please take this into consideration and do not cut the IB exam fees as it would be highly appreciated.</p>

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 9:11:24 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	It is racist and against the district's equity cries to cut Luther Burbank's IB Exam fees. About 88% of Burbank students are socio-economically disadvantaged. Burbank is the ONLY honors program in the district in which Latinx/Latine students are NOT under-represented (compared to the larger school population). Incredibly, Burbank's African-American students are actually slightly OVER-represented in the IB program. It is imperative that our district work towards racial and social equity, and one way to do so is to continue to provide testing fees for Luther Burbank students. Jen Adkins
Comment:	It is racist and against the district's equity cries to cut Luther Burbank's IB Exam fees. About 88% of Burbank students are socio-economically disadvantaged. Burbank is the ONLY honors program in the district in which Latinx/Latine students are NOT under-represented (compared to the larger school population). Incredibly, Burbank's African-American students are actually slightly OVER-represented in the IB program. It is IMPERATIVE that our district begin to work more diligently to address racial and social inequity, and one way to do so is to continue to provide testing fees for Luther Burbank students.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 2:33:02 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Goe Vang
Comment:	<p>Hello, I am a junior student at Luther Burbank High School who is also taking IB courses. As you may know, Luther Burbank is located in the low-income part of Sacramento and have students who are also in the IB Program and are mainly from low-income families. "Cutting" the funds for the IB program and having students pay for each course they take does not seem fair at all. Students from low-income families can not afford to pay every \$120 for every IB class they want to take. Eventually, no one will be able to afford it nor register to keep the program alive. The program may end up withdrawing from the school. I am taking my first year as an IB candidate, which means I have one more year to go. The IB courses do not only give me college credits but also helps me as a creative learner. If I have to pay for my classes next year, it practically means that this year was not worth anything at all. I suggest you reconsider your thoughts. Not only will this affect me, but it will affect my colleagues as well. The IB courses does impact me and will help me in the future. I like taking IB classes and enjoy learning about subjects that are college levels. Again, please reconsider your thoughts. Thank You.</p>

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 6:25:03 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Elisabeth Johnson
Comment:	<p>It is your duty to continue to improve equity in our district by saving Luther Burbank's IB program. The way you do this is by not cutting IB exam fees.</p> <p>Did you know that 54.8% of Burbank's seniors are taking at least 1 IB class?</p> <p>Did you know that it is the only honors program in Sacramento (within a larger high school) in which Latinx students are NOT underrepresented?</p> <p>Did you know that our African-American students are over-represented in this unique honors program (32.5% of current Diploma Candidates are Black as compared to 22% of the student body)?</p> <p>This unique honors program offers OUR students, ones that would already go to this neighborhood school, an enhanced GPA, a better chance at college admission, and college credits once they get there.</p> <p>Do you really want to cut that? That's besides the point that you shouldn't be talking about cuts at all because there is no need for them based on the money coming into the district...</p> <p>IB at Burbank is a unique and rigorous program that has served thousands of students -- mostly from Meadowview -- over the last 15 years and we hope to continue to be able to offer this unique program for many more to come.</p> <p>Take the cuts to "IB and AP exam fees" OFF the table. Practice what you preach about the importance of each child, diversity, and equity.</p>

Speaking as: Both parent and employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 11:47:19 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Ailee Thor
Comment:	<p>It is a major issue that the IB exam fees are in consideration of being cut at Luther Burbank. The fees should not be cut. One would think that in a low class neighborhood, a school would protect the one thing that many low class students benefits from. As a student who attends Luther Burbank and takes the IB courses, to know that the IB exam fees are in consideration to be cut is quite disappointing. I, and speaking for many others cannot afford to pay for the IB exams. We don't have that type of money to pull out of our pockets. We depend on the exams to help us save a couple units in college to save money. Many of us would choose to work instead of going to college solemnly because we cannot afford to. The IB exam is a boost for our future. I am graduating from this year however that doesn't mean that the needs and the support that the IB exams gives is gone as well. That means that there are more who depends on this. Do you know that student makes goals around the IB exam? As a way to show self-worth to themselves and others. As a motivation goal to not settle for less. Again, in a low class neighborhood such things like this are what needs to be available to low class students.</p>

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 2:04:40 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Do not cut funds for the IB program! Tapia
Comment:	<p>As a Titan Alumni and a student who participated in the IB program, I highly urge the district not to cut funds to the IB program. I grew up in a low income household and I know very well my parents did not have the means to help in paying for the IB exams I took my senior year of high school there. Fortunately I didn't have to pay, else I wouldn't have taken the exams. There are many other students and families who struggle financially, especially students attending Luther Burbank. Do not take an opportunity away from students who may already be disadvantaged in our society. The least we can do for the students in our community is ensure they have an opportunity at being more successful and cutting funds to the IB program would only exacerbate an already stressful financial environment for families.</p> <p>-A former Titan, C/O 2007</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 11:33:54 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Meuy Saeteurn
Comment:	Do not cut IB programs from Luther Burbank.

Speaking as: Luther Burbank Alumni

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 5:05:06 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Sandra Yanez
Comment:	Please do not cut IB funding at Luther Burbank high school. as an alumni and my husband, brothers, sisters and friends all graduated with IB honors. This helped us be business owners, engineer, doctor, marine biologist and many more amazing things in life . Our kids will soon be attending and want them to have the same opportunities that we had with the IB program. If funding is cut to testing we believe it is at high risk to lose the IB program all together, due to the fact that many students may not have the funding to pay for such test making the program itself untouchable for many and may cause the program to disappear altogether. We ask that funding stay the same to the IB program.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 4:57:06 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Adriana Gutiérrez
Comment:	<p>An advanced program like the IB program at Luther Burbank high school from my experience was a program that supported its students and challenged their minds. The teachers who taught for this program provided a network where students could really learn and excel. As someone who recently graduated from college I can say that advanced programs like the IB program set me up with the skills to be able to handle my college classes. If the SCUSD was to remove funding to advanced programs, like the IB program, it would mean that the exams would no longer be manageable for the everyday student and their households. One of the great things about the program was that it was accessible to all students, but if the exams are no longer funded it becomes less accessible. Students need programs like these to feel like they are being intellectually challenged. When you remove programs that intellectually challenge students you stop their ability to grow and develop, which every student should have the ability to access.</p>

Speaking as: Luther Burbank High School: IB Program Alumni

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 4:23:02 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	This is not a question Shaver
Comment:	In order for the mostly economically disadvantaged and mostly BIPOC students at Burbank HS to complete their IB education, please continue to cover their exam fees. This program has a greater impact for the students at that school, who may not have the means or support to obtain equivalent programs elsewhere. thank you

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 8:58:36 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Jennifer Ngo
Comment:	<p>Dearest Committee members and Attendees,</p> <p>I am asking that you please reconsider any financial cuts to Luther Burbank Senior High Schools IB program. I ask this not only as a Parent but as an LBH alumni and community member. The students at Luther Burbank are consistently faced with daily challenges. These challenges (struggle for food, clothing, housing, abuse.. to list a few) are situations that students in areas with higher income brackets normally do not endure. When a student graduates from Highschool she or he is expected to academically perform in a competitive manner amongst their peer group. If the LBH IB program suffers any financial cut's we as a community are severing opportunities to these students. We are leading these students into an academic battle in which they can not compete. The IB program provides a chance at educational equality for these students. It is our responsibility to ensure that all students are allotted equal opportunities regardless of their background. If the program suffers any cut's the Sacramento School district is leaving LBH students disadvantaged and unable to compete thus prohibiting their chances at success. Cutting much needed financial assistance to the IB program from a school that has about 90% or more of the students coming from low income homes disproportionately favors students from middle and upperclass homes. The students and their families should not have to choose between paying rent or paying for exams etc. Additionally, it is important to keep in mind that the majority of the student population at LBH is a blended group of minorities; a group often left behind in careers that require a college degree. It is a well know fact that statistically individuals with a 4 year degree or higher are more likely to obtain careers in professional and managerial positions. These careers not only bring up the individual but their families aswell into higher social economic status. According to NorthAmerica.com 72% of individuals will continue to reside in or next to the community in which they grew up. If this statistic holds true then having a program that promotes and ensures educational success beyond highschool is a benefit for all members in the Sacramento and surrounding communities. Please, please never forget "What you put in is what you get out".</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 7:09:17 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Erika Galang
Comment:	<p>Honorable Board Members, as an alumni of the 1994 Luther Burbank Academy of Math, Science and Engineering magnet program and a former educator who now serves with the City of Sacramento, I understand the very difficult fiscal decisions you must make for the upcoming academic year, especially after the effects of the pandemic on this current year.</p> <p>However, I wish to implore you to reconsider your proposal and not cut the funding to AP and IB programs that many students rely on to secure opportunities for higher learning. Growing up in a disadvantaged socioeconomic community, the opportunity to participate in Burbank's magnet program was a blessing, as it allowed ambitious students to challenge themselves while earning college course credit to not only accelerate their post-secondary studies, but also offset the cost of those courses. My personal experiences during those 4 years have molded me into being an active community member and allowed me to achieve the successes I have since then.</p> <p>As a former educator and now as a parent, we always want the best for these kids. Reducing funding for AP and IB programs will be a huge financial burden on families who already have a hard time keeping up with the costs of high school activities and expenses, which in turn may reduce participation in these programs and limit opportunities for students.</p> <p>In closing, the community is sensitive to the difficult task at hand for you. However, on behalf of those of us whom would not be where we are today without the benefit of these programs, I ask that you consider reductions in other areas or at least reduce the amount of the proposed cuts so that families only pay a portion of the AP and IB program assessment fees as opposed to bearing 100% of those exam costs. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Luther Burbank Alumni and City of Sacramento Public Servant

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 1:30:57 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	lee xiong
Comment:	<p>My name is Lee Xiong, and I am a senior at Luther Burbank High School. When hearing of the possible cuts for the IB exam fees, I was disappointed. If the funding for these exams were to be cut, the IB Program at Burbank would be nonexistent. Therefore, another opportunity for low-income students like us will be gone.</p> <p>Additionally, the majority of students that attend Burbank are socioeconomically disadvantaged. Meaning, if most of us are living paycheck to paycheck, money for the exams will be an impossible topic to bring up to our families if we have to choose between taking the exams and having a roof over our heads.</p> <p>Furthermore, this rigorous course is one of the very few and limited resources students at Burbank have to increase their chances of acceptance into colleges. By taking these courses, there is the hope that higher education is possible for low-income students, like us. Please consider when making your final judgments. The IB program has aided many of my older friends and family in the past. The IB program is helping me become a more competitive college applicant right now. The IB program will continue to serve those who depend on this program to help them stand out as high achieving scholars from low-income backgrounds. If the exam fees are taken away, opportunities for students at Burbank can ultimately decrease.</p>

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 10:49:08 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Ryan Saechin
Comment:	<p>As a LBHS alumni and a student who was a full candidate of the IB program, I think it is extremely important to keep the IB exams free for the students. Most students, like myself and my siblings, all relied on the free exams coming from working-class families. If it wasn't for the free exams, I wouldn't have been able to take the exams nor get college credits entering college. I think it is extremely important to keep these exam free because with the preparation and dedication of the IB teachers at Luther Burbank High School, I myself was able to connect and build relationships to some of the best motivators and passionate teachers. Because of these leaders, they heavily influenced me to be the person I am today. Working for a SCUSD as a Program Manager at a Learning Hub and wanting to work for the SCUSD as an educator and serving the underserved communities.</p>

Speaking as: Alumni

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 8:47:32 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Karina Aguilera
Comment:	<p>I would strongly urge you to reconsider the budget reduction item which would eliminate paying for student's IB and AP exams included in the Proposed Fiscal Recovery Plan (Item 10.3). As a former student who had the privilege of participating in the IB Programme at Luther Burbank High School, I can undoubtedly attest that eliminating this funding would be a great disservice and obstacle imposed on students' ability to participate in these programs. Currently, the fee for one IB exam is slightly above \$100 and AP exams are slightly below \$100. Regardless, the cost for a full diploma IB candidate would be well over \$600 which is large cost and burden to foist onto a vast majority of socioeconomically disadvantaged students who partake in these programs.</p> <p>I want to speak from my experience, as a first-generation low-income high school student, the burden of a \$600 price tag from a program would greatly disincentivize my parents from allowing me to partake (especially since my sibling and I were both apart of it). Several, if not most, of my fellow classmates who also faced similar economic hardships (and to a greater extent), may have been withheld the opportunity to participate due to those economic barriers.</p> <p>As one of SCUSD's Core Values included in the Strategic Plan for 2016-2021, "Equity: Commitment to reducing the academic achievement gap by ensuring that all students have equal access to the opportunities, supports and the tools they need to be successful", I believe that continuing to fund the payment of both IB and AP exams would allow for this Value to continue striving forward. Equity and equal access to programs such as this should remain accessible in order to continue bridging the gap and allow students to pursue their academic potential without socioeconomic limitations.</p> <p>Thank you all for taking the time to listen, and your continued vital work through these challenging times.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 10:34:01 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Christiana Dominguez
Comment:	<p>I have spent 15 years engaged in work guided by two mantras:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Democracy must be learned by each generation.• Opportunity should be a right, not a privilege. <p>I have the honor of serving as the volunteer lead advisor for the local YMCA's Youth & Government Model Legislature and Court program. Our program aims to grow the next generation of engaged Californians who recognize the importance of civic knowledge, civic awareness, and civic action to creating the communities in which we all want to live.</p> <p>In addition to increasing civic engagement, our program offers tangential benefits like increasing participants' confidence, improving public speaking skills, and empathy – skills that help kids ready themselves for college and careers. And speaking of college, the leadership and personal growth opportunities afforded by our program look fantastic on college applications.</p> <p>Unfortunately, these wonderful benefits come with a sizeable price tag (at least in pre-pandemic times). I'm proud to say that in 15 years, I never lost a participant due to financial concerns – the YMCA works hard to ensure equal program access to all who want to join. But how many students never joined because they saw the price tag and self-selected out? Because they've never experienced financial support like what we provide before? Because other adults had dangled opportunities in front of them and failed to have their back?</p> <p>The cost of participating in extracurricular enrichment programs perpetuates inequity of opportunity.</p> <p>There are other programs available to students that similarly foster critical thinking and develop problem solving skills, such as the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Thankfully, this program is available in several public schools in Sacramento. But the Sacramento City Unified School District Board is considering an action that would harm</p>

the IB program at Burbank High School, a school that is over 85% socioeconomically disadvantaged.

Participation in the IB curriculum culminates in exams, like those for Advanced Placement (AP) classes. And like AP exams, successful performance on IB exams can translate into college credits that save students thousands of dollars. Students must pay a fee to take IB exams. For students at Burbank High School, those fees are paid. The School Board, however, is considering cutting funding for IB and AP fees.

Nearly 55% of Burbank High School seniors are taking at least one IB class. The Burbank IB program is unique, rigorous, and has served thousands of students, mostly from Meadowview, over the last 15 years.

(The School Board also considered cutting the budget for personnel to continue the IB programs at Caleb Greenwood Elementary and Kit Carson International Academy, but decided not to. Neither of those schools serve the South Sacramento area.)

While there's no threat to IB personnel at Burbank, if the district removes funding for the exams, then they have not just moved the goal posts, they have taken them down and bulldozed the end-zone.

Offering programs like IB but removing the funding needed to ensure students can complete them is a betrayal of students' hard work and a waste of their potential. It enforces the idea that some things – like a good education – aren't for them, they are for other, richer kids. Kids whose parents can afford the registration or exam fee.

I don't believe the School Board really thinks that an IB education isn't for Burbank students. But the ill-conceived idea to save money by cutting exam perpetuates inequity at a time when we have claimed, as a community, to have prioritized rooting it out.

I work tirelessly to convince students and their families that my program is for them, regardless of financial means. It's an uphill climb. I urge the School Board not to lose ground, hurt kids, and increase inequity in our city.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 11:13:18 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	John Synhorst
Comment:	<p>My name is John Synhorst and am a retired teacher from Sacramento City USD.</p> <p>As a founding member of the team that introduced the International Baccalaureate Program to Luther Burbank and the district, it is very distressing to find it in jeopardy by an ill-informed budget decision.</p> <p>While delighted to follow the districts advancement of this rigorous ideals and curriculum through the establishment of the programs at Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood, it has been to the detriment of the program at Luther Burbank, unintended as it were.</p> <p>To cut the limited support the Burbank IB Program receives through the testing budget would be devastating to the students involved with these courses.</p> <p>Please do not cut the Testing Fund.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 11:53:00 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Mayra Tellez
Comment:	<p>My name is Mayra Tellez and I have been teaching IB Environmental Systems & Societies at Luther Burbank High School for the last eleven years. During this time I have had the privilege of teaching and learning from hundreds if not close to a thousand IB students. Year after year, students are eager to challenge themselves with hopes of improving their academic record for university AND potentially earn college credit. If the school board cuts the funding that pays for IB exam fees many students' opportunities will be cut short and the IB Programme at Burbank will be essentially eliminated. You see, about 88% of Burbank students are socio-economically disadvantaged and cannot pay for exams out of pocket. A district as diverse as SCUSD, needs to prioritize equity and the promotion of higher education for our most vulnerable populations and the simple act of covering exam fees has the potential to change the course of a family. Last year, Burbank's IB exams cost less than \$80k, and 228 students were served. In that cohort, is senior Viviana Avila-Arementa, the third in her family to complete the IB diploma track this June. Respectively, her older siblings are alumni both of Burbank and the IB program who are now in college or have graduated from 4-year university in large because of the opportunities the IB program opened for them. Like Viviana, the Burbank IB Programme has a number of legacy students since its inception. Our families are knowledgeable and trust the opportunities the IB Program can bring to them and this knowledge is shared by other members of the community that has kept the program growing for the past 16 years. The Burbank IB Programme has led generational change for first-generation, low-income, immigrant, and linguistically diverse families. If the financial support for the Burbank IB Programme is cut, these families will be further from opportunities to a path for a better future and these positive changes will stop. Furthermore, the cutting of the financial support for the IB Programme will further create inequity that is already a devastated community in South Sacramento. I urge you to not cut the funding that pays for IB examinations.</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 11:34:14 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Yessenia Vargas
Comment:	a quien corresponda; como padre de familia de la escuela Luther Burbank high school solo para pedirles sobre del programa de IB que se mantenga. ha sido un programa que le benefició mucho a mi hija ahora que entro al colegio. gracias a este programa ellos avanzan a pasos agigantados. hay un número mayor de alumnos que lo toman y que muchos alumnos se benefician ya que sabemos que son clases que no podemos pagar nosotros como familias de bajos recursos. Entonces tratamos de que nuestros hijos las tomen . solo pido que no las quiten por favor la queremos mantener gracias por su tiempo en leer. Bendiciones

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 9:10:59 PM

From: Vanna Turner <vturner@scusd.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 7:26 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Agenda item 10.3 - Fiscal recovery plan

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

Full Name: Vanna Turner, Teacher, Retired (2009) Agenda Item 10.3

As a retired English and VAPA teacher (Einstein MS and Rosemont HS), I'm urging you to reject the Superintendent's proposed budget cuts that unnecessarily harm both your students and teachers. The students don't deserve to have VAPA or any other important programs cut from the curriculum, nor do the teachers deserve to have drastic cuts made to their health insurance. My own children both grew up in SCUSD schools and benefited immensely from the VAPAC program at Sac High in the 80's-90's, as did my own students in the very successful VAPA program at Rosemont in 2004-09. It was the VAPA classes that kept many of them engaged in school and helped them to excel in their other classes. With everything else we have been through this year it would be unconscionable to make any cuts in the budget that hurt your students or teachers. Please don't even consider cutting important student programs or shifting more cost to teachers for their health insurance.

Thank you,

Vanna Turner

Sent from my iPhone

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Hiram Jackson
Comment:	<p>Cutting the VAPA program is a mistake. For years the state and federal governments have mandated that public education prioritize raising standardized test scores to acceptable thresholds at the expense of access to the broader curricula that earlier generations enjoyed. This has harmed students from lower income and working class families, a sizable percentage of whom are children of color.</p> <p>No Child Left Behind massively failed to meet its objectives, and yet professional class administrative staff, many of whom have little long term investment in Sacramento, follow a prescribed template of narrowing the curricula for short term gain, but guaranteeing the long term degradation of the Sacramento community. Already Sacramento Unified lacks the robust VAPA programming that it had in prior decades.</p> <p>As a parent of two adopted children who came to this country not speaking a word of English, I faced pressure from professional teaching and administrative staff to have them participate in various intervention programs with the aim of raising their standardized test scores in ELA and math to make the schools look good. I learned to say no thank you, in spite of passive-aggressive comments suggesting that I might be limiting my children by not following their prescription.</p> <p>Instead we encouraged them to participate in VAPA programs that gave them a level playing field for socializing with their peers and developing collaborative and creative work skills.</p> <p>They often scored at the state-defined, 'below proficient' level in ELA. They graduated from high school, completed college, and are gainfully employed in professional careers, even during the pandemic. Both are bilingual with professional level fluency in both languages.</p> <p>When you design and pass this budget, ask yourselves, 'would I enroll my own kids or grandkids in any neighborhood school in this district? or would I honestly look for options elsewhere?' More importantly, ask yourselves, 'If I were in a working class family in Sacramento, would my kids have a fair chance to have a professional career?' Budget for schools that you would enthusiastically participate in.</p>

Speaking as: faculty at Cosumnes River College

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/30/2021 1:24:03 PM

From: Jennifer Peart
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:12 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Teacher Public Comment for Board Meeting

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

I am a second grade teacher with SCUSD. I came to this school district because I believe all Sacramento public school students deserve access to a quality education that includes art, music, and social emotional learning. Please do not cut student services. Our students and their families need more support now more than ever. Cutting programs and changing placements for the worse will just add to our families' collective trauma. My students' distance learning attendance is best when we are learning through the arts and sharing our learning related to our emotional well-being and identity (SEL "assignments"). VAPA programs, Dual Immersion Programs, smaller more intimate high school programs, the Waldorf Programs are all programs that meet what our students need now more than ever before. This is our opportunity to set aside outdated mandates that prioritize some subjects over the other, that prioritize this industrial model of one size fits most "efficiency" over personalized learning. We teachers are told Universal Design for Learning is the future. Well, here we are. We can no longer design for the middle or for "the average". These specialty programs give our families a choice within our public school offerings. We will lose students to private schools and out-of-district charter schools if we continue to prioritize numbers over needs.

We know developing minds need to feel safe in order to learn. Joy and creativity help us teachers do that. Smaller, inclusive classes help us do that. I cannot make children feel safe and welcome in second grade without Art and Music, without tapping into our students' world languages, without social emotional lessons. Please do not cut student services during this time. Thank you for listening to my plea.

I have taught in Oakland Unified, the North Sacramento area, Lake County, and Rocklin Unified. I have arrived back to my home in Sacramento and I see so much potential here. Stop comparing our students to other districts and other cities and other states. Our students' backgrounds are incredibly diverse, just like their needs. We need leadership to see the potential that is here to prioritize all of students' access to a quality education.

--
Wishing you health and safety,
Jennifer Peart
(She/Her)

From: Talyn Wong
Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2021 4:08 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Re: Budget cuts to VAPA

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

Before I got my current job as the music teacher at California Middle School, I was subbing in the music class at Ethel Phillips Elementary school. I was told the music teacher left in a hurry, because they had found a full time job somewhere else. Who can blame them? So I was subbing with no sub plans. A second grade class full of native Spanish speakers came into the room, so I decided to start by teaching the Spanish folk song "De Colores." I started by singing it to them. As I finished the second verse I looked up and noticed that some of the children had tears streaming down their faces. I asked them what was wrong. One wiped his tears, and with a beautiful grin on his face said, "It was just so beautiful!"

Of course, this event had nothing to do with me or my singing voice. It had to do with the power of music education to support social emotional learning, English language learners, and cultural empowerment. What was beautiful wasn't my voice, but a room in which a white woman from Minnesota sings the anthem of the United Farm Workers in Spanish with a classroom full of hispanic children. Music is uniquely powerful in addressing many of our students', our community's, and our world's most pressing problems. That is why it is so dismaying to me that music education is repeatedly on the list of cuts.

The SCUSD administration purports to value safe, emotionally healthy, and engaged students. They claim to seek family and community empowerment. They say that they're fighting for equity. The list of possible cuts seems to me to show that none of that is true. If it were true, then why are the programs on the forefront of meeting those goals the ones on the chopping block? It does not make sense for an organization that values equity and engaged students to threaten inclusive special education or small high schools. It does not make sense for an organization that values family and community empowerment to cut dual immersion or Waldorf programs. It does not make sense for an organization that values any of those things to cut middle school music.

Your predecessors on the school board in the 90's created equity problems by cutting K-6 music programs. The issues they created are on full display in my classroom today. When 7th graders come to Cal they can choose beginning band or advanced band. However, to choose advanced band they must be coming from certain schools AND have a certain economic standing. They must come from one of the elementary schools that provide a before or after school band program, and their family must have had the means to provide access to an instrument and to pay for the band program. Thankfully, students that did not have these advantages can choose beginning band and be prepared to choose advanced band in 8th grade. That puts all of these students on even footing by the time they're applying for the high school VAPA programs. If you cut middle school music, you will be responsible for making economically disadvantaged students permanently disqualified for music education at SCUSD.

Cutting middle school music programs defunds a major source of family and community engagement. Concerts provide a forum for parents and community members (some of whom do not have time for or interest in parent organizations) to meet each other and school staff, become comfortable in our buildings, and develop relationships with each other and SCUSD. I can use myself as an example for this. I'm not much interested in fundraisers, or science fairs, or carnivals. But if my child is singing with the rest of the kindergarten, I'm there buying a slice of pizza, meeting the principal, and planning a playdate with parents I wouldn't have otherwise met.

Finally, music education has unique power to cultivate safe, emotionally healthy, and engaged students. It's common knowledge that we provide physical education to our students not because they are going to be professional athletes, but because physical education will help them to lead healthful lives. It builds safe, emotionally healthy, engaged students. Music education is the same. We don't provide music education

because all of our students will go on to be professional musicians. We do so because music education helps them prepare to be fully human. Every known culture in history uses music. It's essential to being part of the human family. Music education provides places for second grade boys to weep together in an uplifting, healthy way. It provides 7th graders a forum to discuss systemic racism as we study contemporary protest music with the hashtag #taketwoknees. It teaches 8th graders how to work through political unrest and fear by composing rap music about the riot in Washington D.C. All of those things happened in my very own classroom over the last 14 months.

Cutting middle school music will demonstrate to me that SCUSD does not value safe, emotionally healthy, engaged students. Or, even worse, it will prove that they only think students with the economic means to pay for private lessons until they get to high school are worthy of the safety, emotional health, and engagement that for many students can only come through music.

Talyn Wong

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Tracy Adams
Comment:	<p>Good Evening Board Members,</p> <p>I am writing this letter to make you aware of the benefits of small high school options our district offers. We drive from out of district because this is the only district that offers amazing things like smaller enrollment and the technology piece that New Tech does.</p> <p>By keeping these options you will continue to bring in outside students and increase enrollment into our district. No other district around has this small high school option.</p> <p>Now, on a personal note: New Technology has changed my daughter's life. Before high school she was not appreciated by her peers and often not allowed to reach her potential in a classroom that works in a traditional method. After attending New Tech and participating in Project Based Learning she not only learned content and her GPA is above 3.5, she has learned group skills, leadership, and technology that is beyond my understanding. She will even be attending a college class next year, but with the support of her high school teachers. These benefits are not true for many other schools.</p> <p>More importantly then her academic progress to us is her growth in personal relationships and friendship. Because of the size of these high schools, she has been able to form very close relationships with staff and students. She has been able to have similar interest and a schedule where many students see each other 3 or 4 times a day. We knew we had made the right choice in schools when in her Freshmen year, she got invited to 3 birthday parties and actual had people respond yes to her own party. That was the FIRST TIME SINCE KINDERGARTEN my child got invited to a birthday party from classmates. I literally cried. It is this kind of school environment we should be fostering and encouraging. We are a family.</p> <p>I wanted to make you all aware of how amazing New Tech and the other small school are for our students and the benefits to our district. Please don't change or cut funds to these programs.</p> <p>Thank you, Tracy Adams</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 11:57:19 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Patricia Galan
Comment:	<p>SCUSD Board, I have a son class of 2017 SNTHS and my daughter is a junior at SNTHS. I have commuted from Elk Grove for seven years for my kids to attend the unique small school project based learning environment at SNTHS. The small school environment has been an opportunity for my children to thrive educationally and socially. Learning to work as a team to complete projects and learning to feel comfortable giving presentations are two areas in which SNTHS excels because of the unique small community environment. The new leadership and teachers at NTHS have done a fantastic job with distance learning. Our students were comfortable with using technology as part of everyday learning so when the need to learn remotely arose our students transitioned rather smoothly to distance learning. Our administrator and teachers develop an understanding of each students learning strengths and encourage emotional development demonstrated by our unique grading model. My SNTHS graduate is finishing second year of college and I attribute much of his success to the skills he learned at New Tech beyond A-G prep such as his comfort using technology and his ability to advocate for himself. SNTHS provides A-G course work but more than that they provide skills that change students lives and I ask you to take a deeper look at the school and not just the numbers. The Sacramento area needs graduates from schools like SNTHS so I encourage the SCUSD to help grow enrollment and help SNTHS to succeed. Sincerely, Patricia Galan</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 9:19:54 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	H Miller
Comment:	<p>Sacramento New Technology High School is magical!</p> <p>Our son attended a small public Montessori elementary and middle school. We knew we needed to find a small high school where our son would feel safe and flourish, as he would have been lost in his large neighborhood school of over 2k.</p> <p>During our tour at New Technology, the students all smiled, waived, or said hello. The community feeling was very apparent. We toured several other smaller charters in the district but fell in love with New Tech and knew this wonderful school was the place for our son.</p> <p>The teachers and staff are phenomenal, dedicated and, go above and beyond to help the students not only learn but succeed. The unique project-based learning is part of the magic of this school. Collaboration and communication are at the root of this approach. The plethora of technology in every classroom is astounding. There are many wonderful after-school programs available including the Toyota Mirai Hydrogen Fuel Cell club and competition!</p> <p>Our son began his freshman year with a great deal of anxiety and the staff and teachers worked closely with him using compassion and awareness to help him learn coping mechanisms to overcome a lot of that anxiety. He is a senior this year and thanks to the dedication of teachers and staff, he is a proud, well-spoken, confident young man. There are many amazing classes offered at New Tech and as part of his robust education, he will complete the Computer Science CTE pathway upon graduation.</p> <p>When COVID hit so many schools struggled with distance learning, but not New Tech. They flourished! As the school is so technologically advanced the transition to distance learning was a smooth one. Students were accustomed to accessing homework online and utilizing online resources. Administration and teachers quickly established new norms for online classes and were inventive in ways to distribute materials to students safely, ensured communication was received by families, and were always available to assist.</p> <p>New Tech has a glowing reputation for producing college-bound students. Our son received early acceptance to CSU Sacramento and we expect he will receive good news from UC Davis in March. Some classmates received acceptance to prestigious public and private schools around the state and country!</p>

Sacramento New Technology is a gem among schools and a value to the district. We believe it is in the district's best interest to keep this amazing school, so that future generations of students have the same wonderful opportunity we experienced.

Best regards, The Millers

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 9:08:13 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Lisa Giordano
Comment:	<p>My son has attended New Tech for 3 years where he is thriving. We knew he would not be successful in a large high school and the teachers and staff have gone above and beyond on many occasions to help keep our son on track. He was struggling academically during a time when there was an interim principal, and even she knew who our son was and immediately rallied to help him, thus proving to us how important many SCUSD employees know smaller high schools are. New Tech has been AMAZING during this time of distance learning with communication, follow through and encouragement. New Tech teachers get to know the students and they really care, which has made all the difference for our son. We have had 3 sons before him attend two of our local large high schools, so we have a point of reference. Our son at New Tech would have fallen through the cracks at a large high school and it's disheartening to think of all the opportunities lost for other kids in the district if small high schools are shut down. C'mon SCUSD, we have a large district that should be an example for offering a variety of excellence, not always threatening to cut off small schools where the kids are thriving!</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 8:24:35 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Jo Ramos
Comment:	In point of view of a parent closing down Sacramento New Technology High School would create a hole in this community and city and gravely affect the students and current staff. This school is more than just another charter school it is a school that provides our children with higher than average education and skills needed for their future endeavours. This school prepares them for college and for their careers. Theyre innivative ways of teaching has been very effective since the day this school opened. I strongly urge the School District to reconsider closing down Sacramento New Technology High School.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 7:09:24 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	New Tech School Budget Hawkins
Comment:	New Tech School is a gem of a school in your District, that you need to protect. Many students come from outside the district, because of the small school experience that New Tech offers. As you know a student that comes from outside of the district contributes to the bottom line. New Tech High School is going in such a upbeat positive direction with the new leadership of Principal Martin, who has working tirelessly to make sure that "No Student falls through the Cracks". The support from the teachers and the staff, is what I cherish the most. I was so impressed as a parent of a sophomore, how many New Tech Seniors have been selected to attend outstanding colleges!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 9:08:40 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Valdivia Casillas
Comment:	Please don't cut funding to IB and AP. I'm a former student and because of those classes I got into higher education, now being a successful accountant and no longer in the "poverty" zone.

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 8:14:45 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Alirayane Harcha
Comment:	pls don't make us pay for IB exams, i can't afford it and neither can my classmates. ❤️

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 10:39:28 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Nikki Garcia
Comment:	Please don't cut the IB exam fees. The reason for this is because of the students attending the school district—including me—can not afford to pay for the tests themselves, especially their parents. I'm 17, going to be graduating this year, and I do not have a job yet. My grandfather works as a trucker to help pay for the bills and put food on the table for me and my family. He's old, has back pain and still works. My stepmother is physically disabled and unable to work, and my father takes what ever job he can fixing cars. Despite our financial situation, cutting off the payment for the IB exams will hinder my ability to enter a college or university, not only me, the rest of the student body, and my younger siblings who are not yet in highschool. This will affect our futures.

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 10:14:35 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	J Romo
Comment:	<p>Please do not cut the funding to the The International Baccalaureate honors program and its exam fees. The IB program was “founded to give all students the opportunity to receive an education fit for a globalizing world, and is intended to develop students’ intellectual, emotional, personal and social skills.” By cutting the funding you are only proving that you do not have the best interest of our children, our future, in mind. This program provides an opportunity for individuals to reach their goals that are literally not within reach without this program.</p> <p>It is a shame that defunding this program is even on the table and will only prove that the people in charge of “leading” do not have their priorities in order!!</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 8:38:40 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Mary Xiong
Comment:	Please do not cut fundings for the IB and AP exam fees. This would be detrimental to students, especially students from low income families, by limiting the resources necessary to improve their chances at receiving college credits and help in college admissions.

Speaking as: LBHS IB alumni, community member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 1:07:43 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Lori Merritt
Comment:	<p>Last week I submitted a comment in support of Kit Carson's IB program. I appreciate the board's support, but want to challenge you to embrace equity!</p> <p>How can the board be willing to continue to support programs like Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood and still consider decimating the program at Luther Burbank? By cutting funding for IB exams for these hard working, high achieving students you be adding undue burden to students who deserve the same considerations as students in East Sac.</p> <p>This is an issue of equity!</p> <p>This is an issue of social justice!</p> <p>As a new board, you are setting your tone. What will it be? Equity for all of Sac City's IB students? I hope you will do the right thing and make choices that put students first!</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 8:03:54 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Don't cut the IB and AP exam fees! Les
Comment:	Don't cut the IB and AP exam fees!

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 5:12:15 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	I have a younger nephew who looks up to me and who I take care of when his parents are at work so this will be a huge impact on my house because it took a lot of hard work to get where I am at now and will also be horrible to just let it all go to waste. This IB program is helping me with a lot of my goals and I recently got accepted into 2 universities already and already having to apply for scholarships, grants, and financial aid. I do believe that it is unfair that a smaller, richer, and whiter school got saved from being cut while less fortunate schools are in danger of it. Think about the community for real. Campbell
Comment:	I have a younger nephew who looks up to me and who I take care of when his parents are at work so this will be a huge impact on my house because it took a lot of hard work to get where I am at now and will also be horrible to just let it all go to waste. This IB program is helping me with a lot of my goals and I recently got accepted into 2 universities already and already having to apply for scholarships, grants, and financial aid. I do believe that it is unfair that a smaller, richer, and whiter school got saved from being cut while less fortunate schools are in danger of it. Think about the community for real.

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 12:30:33 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Vincent Thao
Comment:	The IB program is used to further advance student's education to better their future and a cost fee should not be the consequence of hard work being wasted as many students cannot afford to pay the fees due to household incomes

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 12:33:37 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Hunter Moua
Comment:	I would like the school board to not cut the IB exam fees because it is not fair to the students who want an opportunity to take the IB exam.

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/2/2021 12:33:14 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Junior Goris
Comment:	<p>Good evening Superintendent Aguilar, President Pritchett and Board Members,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to have some input on the Fiscal Recovery Plan. As a parent organizer at the MLK site, Im saddened to always feel as we are having to defend our site from purposed cuts. Many of you don't know us so please indulge me as I give you a brief description. Our community of 371 kids is a safe place for blue collar, service workers, working families. MLK is a pillar in our community. As your report states, many families who which I speak for tonight have more than one child at this site, allowing for brothers and sisters to walk/transit safely to school together. The proposed cut to MLK's middle school program would DEVASTATE many families' survival strategies that were already under immense pressure PRE-COVID days. Cutting middle schools programs from our site would result in older siblings to move to neighboring schools creating a "hardship" on my single parent homes. Respectfully esteem board, SEEK RELIEF ELSE WHERE. the \$229,00 saving would be destructive beyond measure to our families. I respectfully request you abandon this option or if no other option exist, that YOU the board come and talk to our parents directly with this proposal. Please come see for yourselves the effects of such an action. Respectfully, more community input is needed. We are trying to avoid receivership but this is a receivership move. I thank you for allowing me to address you tonight and thank you all for your labor to our children.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 10:15:57 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Kim Shaffer
Comment:	Please do not cut mental health services to our kids! They need counselors and therapists now more than ever! Cuts should not be made that hurt the students. Especially not the most vulnerable emotionally.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 9:39:23 PM