

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

August 20, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Toni Colley-Perry
Comment:	Greetings, I would like to express my concerns about the underutilization of the Bistro. I initially had concerns about the location of the Bistro and how it would be sustainable. For the past two years, I have become a neighbor of the district office. I would like to have the board consider obtaining several bids to open the Bistro to the community by creating an outdoor eating area and drive through for the community. I have been disappointed that the money that was spent on creating the Bistro didn't consider a community utilization plan. There is a tremendous need for Healthy food options for this community. I would like to see the Bistro utilized as a community resource. Toni Colley-Perry retired employee and community member.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 8/19/2020 9:23:38 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

August 20, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Emma Snuggs
Comment:	<p>Osiyo (Hello) SCUSD School Board,</p> <p>I request a name change for Sutter Middle School and a review of several other school names. I am a mother of two SCUSD high school students, a Citizen of the Cherokee Nation, and studied American Indian Studies (B.A. and M.A. (abt)) at UCLA. John Sutter committed heinous acts of violence against California Indigenous people and should not be celebrated for those acts. The use of his name erases and dismisses Indigenous peoples and survival. I invite the SCUSD School board to participate in a discussion about this matter.</p> <p>Approving this request would align with the district's goals but aside from having a discussion here are some benefits to the name change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· The district can honor the ancestral people of the land with a respectful name change that represents the history of the Maidu, Miwok, Me-Wuk, Wintun, Wintu, Patwin and Nisenan Tribes.· We can stop normalizing and making heroes of abusive figures in the US. California Native communities were pushed off their lands with the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill. Sutter used violence and intimidation to force local Natives to work and protect his land.· The district can support the Mental Health of Native youth in our district. In a recent Mental Wellness Report conducted by the Circles of Care grant through the Sacramento Native American Health Center youth feedback stated schools emerged as a significant source of risk for Native children and youth, primarily due to racist tropes that still litter the curriculum. The information taught is damaging to Native children and reinforces negative stereotypes.· In the 2019-2020 school year the Native Youth of Sacramento began work to dismantle the invisibility of Natives in the school setting. <p>Please end the cycle of Sutter's abuse of Native people and children in Sacramento by changing the name!</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 8/20/2020 10:48:28 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

August 20, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Alexander Tamaso
Comment:	<p>I am a father to two boys in your district. I am Samoan and my wife is Native American. I urge you to change the name of Sutter and instead honor the Indigenous people whose ancestors survived his abuse. Times are changing and it is no longer appropriate.</p> <p>The district can honor the ancestral people of the land with a respectful name change that represents the history of the Maidu, Miwok, Me-Wuk, Wintun, Wintu, Patwin and Nisenan Tribes.</p> <p>We can stop normalizing and making heroes of abusive figures in the US. California Native communities were pushed off their lands with the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill. Sutter used violence and intimidation to force local Natives to work and protect his land.</p> <p>The district can support the Mental Health of Native youth in our district. In a recent Mental Wellness Report conducted by the Circles of Care grant through the Sacramento Native American Health Center youth feedback stated schools emerged as a significant source of risk for Native children and youth, primarily due to racist tropes that still litter the curriculum. The information taught is damaging to Native children and reinforces negative stereotypes.</p> <p>In the 2019-2020 school year the Native Youth of Sacramento began work to dismantle the invisibility of Natives in the school setting. Supporting the requests of a name change supports the voice of our Native students.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel: 0

Date/time Stamp: 8/20/2020 10:56:03 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

August 20, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Rich Vasquez
Comment:	<p>Good evening Board President Ryan, Superintendent Aguilar and members of the board. I would like to thank Superintendent Aguilar for his continuous outreach in asking for feedback from families since he has been with SCUSD. I appreciate that, as that shows interest in wanting to improve the outcomes of all students in SCUSD. We can't get better until we hear what is going wrong on our sites and we know there are a lot of wrong doings on our SCUSD campus as our academic statistics tell us this. I start with words from the Superintendent at the Back to School Press Conference of 2017 - "This is a moral issue. Our system has to work for all students, not just those that understand how to navigate and how to advocate on their behalf. It has to work for any of our students irrespective of parental levels of involvement, engagement, or empowerment." After hearing this I had so much hope for my kids, it gave me the opportunity to have bigger dreams for my kids, that we can really dig our way out of poverty and they can have a better life than I have been able to provide them. You showed you were not all talk, you brought sports, summer school, PSAT day, free AP tests, are some of the things that made me believe his words to be true. This is not happening at even your most prized school site West Campus. Why does my child not have confidence in applying to college, just the process, she doesn't have confidence in the process, she attended a College Preparatory school for 4 years, a top 30 school in California, This is what West did with a thriving student? If 60% of West families are poor, what does that mean? There are likely many students that will be first generation college going students for their bloodline, that is the case with my family. How does the site build confidence in their students/families about all things college? There are minimal events that promote college type stuff that invite parents/families. Due to minimal events that promote college dealings I feel West does not service the 60% of socially economically disadvantaged students/families properly as a College Preparatory campus. Again I do not know the college applying process, I never took the SAT, ACT, I did nothing to further my education. I did not get that opportunity. I have no knowledge of the process. It is frustrating that my child is a senior and hasn't had much guidance or confidence in college. Why does she not have a relationship with someone on campus that she can trust to go talk to? She does not have the confidence to ask anyone on campus, Why? Why? Why? She has been on campus 3 years. School sites need to do more to promote college and getting parents/students to understand the process. If the district is going to "give every student an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of post secondary choices from the widest array of options" then there will need to be more college information/support services. From the 11/21/19 board meeting, in a 'College Going Update' presentation it has information on how many workshops/services each site has given. Why does West Campus only have 5 such instances all year? Hiram Johnson had only 3 such instances. Most of our schools are under 6 such instances. We need to follow Burbanks lead as they had 45 college workshops/support services. That looks like to me they are serious about the next level of education and getting that information to</p>

	<p>parents and students. I thought West Campus was going to do more for my child as far as preparing her and giving me as a parent confidence in my child being prepared for college. Are the senior college packets still a thing? We need that right about now to tell us where to start. Please let's do better for the most needed help families with potential first generation college going students. Let's truly make the system work for all students. Thank you!</p>
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Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 8/20/2020 10:56:22 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

August 20, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Michael Hunsaker
Comment:	I want the name "Sutter Middle School" changed. We know what Sutter did to children and it's wrong that a place for children is named after him. Change the name!

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel: 0

Date/time Stamp: 8/20/2020 10:58:46 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

August 20, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Alexander (Sana) Tamaso
Comment:	We should stop naming schools after criminals like Sutter and start educating the youth on why we shouldn't name schools after people like him. Change the name.

Speaking as: Student
Email
Tel: 0
Date/time Stamp: 8/20/2020 11:01:11 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

August 20, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Susan Morla
Comment:	<p>Change the name of Sutter Middle School. (Letter has been submitted to all board members via email)</p> <p>Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education 5735 47th Ave. Sacramento, CA 95824 (916) 643-9314</p> <p>Dear SCUSD School Board Members,</p> <p>We are the SCUSD American Indian Education Program's (AIEP) Parent Advisory Committee. We are made up of parents, grandparents and guardians of American Indian students in the Sacramento City Unified School District. We represent several different tribes from across the United States.</p> <p>In the 2019-2020 year we had 141 students enrolled in the program but over 900 students self-identified as American Indian in the district. We are recommending a name change for Sutter Middle School and a review of several other school names. This recommendation comes at a time when statues are being removed and name changes are happening across the country. It feels like a shock to some but to communities like ours it's a relief to finally to be heard.</p> <p>In the local California Indian community the knowledge of Sutter and the abuse inflicted on Native people is well known. The AIEP recently hosted a virtual program for students to discuss Sutter's legacy. We invite the SCUSD School board to participate in a similar discussion because the history is important and needs more than a few sentences in a letter. We know the school board is committed to the safety of all children. We hope this request is not taken lightly as it has a direct impact on the safety, emotional health and engagement of American Indian students and will empower our families and community. Approving this request would align with the district's goals but aside from having a discussion here are some benefits to the name change:</p> <p>The district can honor the ancestral people of the land with a respectful name change that represents the history of the Maidu, Miwok, Me-Wuk, Wintun, Wintu, Patwin and Nisenan Tribes.</p> <p>We can stop normalizing and making heroes of abusive figures in the US. California</p>

Native communities were pushed off their lands with the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill. Sutter used violence and intimidation to force local Natives to work and protect his land.

The district can support the Mental Health of Native youth in our district. In a recent Mental Wellness Report conducted by the Circles of Care grant through the Sacramento Native American Health Center youth feedback stated schools emerged as a significant source of risk for Native children and youth, primarily due to racist tropes that still litter the curriculum. The information taught is damaging to Native children and reinforces negative stereotypes. Some noteworthy examples include: The California Mission Project, settler perspectives on the Gold Rush, and a general mishandling of oppressive holidays like Thanksgiving and Columbus Day. The report can be found here: https://www.snahc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Year-1-Reports_Print-Ready.pdf?x43197

In the 2019-2020 school year the Native Youth of Sacramento began work to dismantle the invisibility of Natives in the school setting. Supporting the requests of a name change supports the voice of our Native students.

We appreciate the time and effort the board puts into protecting the safety of our children. Years down the road we'll look back at this time and wonder why it took so long for what is a seemingly small change to happen. We look forward to hearing from you on this matter. If you would like to discuss this request further, please contact our board chair Susan Morla at your earliest convenience at 916-583-0940.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Thank you,

AIEP Parent Advisory Committee
Susan Morla
Melissa Yniguez
Alex Russel
Emma Snuggs
Juan Lachica

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 8/20/2020 11:16:30 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

August 20, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Annaleis Michel
Comment:	<p>Change the name of Sutter Middle School!</p> <p>Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education 5735 47th Ave. Sacramento, CA 95824 (916) 643-9314</p> <p>Dear SCUSD School Board Members,</p> <p>I am a SCUSD student, a member of the Native Youth of Sacramento Group (SCUSD), a member of a local Miwok Tribe, a student participant in the American Indian Education Program (AIEP) and a Youth Ambassador for the local Native American Health Center. I am recommending a name change for Sutter Middle School and a review of several other school names. This recommendation comes at a time when statues are being removed and name changes are happening across the country. It feels like a shock to some but to communities like ours it's a relief to finally to be heard.</p> <p>My first knowledge of Sutter did not come from school, my mother taught us the history of Sutter and the genocide and destruction he caused my relatives. It is time for change. It's time this community stops praising a terrorist. Seeing statues and properties of an individual like Sutter, creates emotional distress and anger within me. We know the school board is committed to the safety of all children.</p> <p>Please change the name!</p> <p>We hope this request is not taken lightly as it has a direct impact on the safety, emotional health and engagement of American Indian students and will empower our families and community.</p> <p>Respectfully, Annaleis Michel SCUSD Student</p>

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 8/20/2020 11:21:05 AM

From: Cindy La Marr
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 12:05 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: SCUSD School Name Change Request (Edited)

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.

To: Jessie Ryan, SCUSD Board President
Christina Prichett, 1st Vice President
Michael Minnick, 2nd Vice President
Lisa Murawski, Member, Area 1
Leticia Garcia, Member, Area 2
Mai Vang, Member, Area 5
Darrell Woo, Member, Area 6

Cc: Jorge Aguilar, SCUSD Superintendent

We, the undersigned request a review of schools in the Sacramento City USD named inappropriately after individuals who have caused irreparable harm to Indigenous populations, most egregiously John Sutter and Peter Burnett.

We understand times change and people become more aware of the background and history of names. A thorough review of these schools will help bring about a better education for all students and recommend a committee be formed to help with this task.

It is important as board members to ensure racial equality is foremost on your agenda and thank you for your attention to this matter, especially during this time when an effort to address racial disparity within our communities and public schools is so important.

Respectfully,

Cindy La Marr, Pit River/Paiute, Past President, National Indian Education Association
Britta Guerro, San Carlos Apache, CEO, Sacramento Native American Health Center
Virginia Hedrick, Yurok, Executive Director, California Consortium for Urban Indian Health
Al Osorio, Minister of External Affairs, National Brown Berets
Calvin Hedrick, Mountain Maidu, Executive Director, The 5th Direction
Jim Keddy, Executive Director, Youth Forward
David Heitstuman, CEO, Sacramento LGBT Center
Yahmonee Hedrick, Mountain Maidu/Chickasaw, Former Sutter Middle School student
Leah Hawkins, Chickasaw, Program Associate, California Consortium for Urban Indian Health

Many more to come...

Cindy La Marr

From: taweah garcia
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 10:30 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Rename inappropriate school names in Sacramento

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Munahoo,

I am writing in support of the name change of Sacramento City USD and Sutter Middle School.

Thank you

Taweah Garcia
Dunlap Band of Mono Indians
Tribal Council
Member at Large

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: Dahlton Brown
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:01 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Sutter

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.

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Indigenous inhabitants of the Sacramento Valley, Wilton Rancheria formally requests that the Sacramento Unified School District undergo a thorough review of its campuses for appropriateness of those individuals whose names appear on each campus. Most significantly, we strongly encourage the District to immediately remove and replace the name of John Sutter on your campus. John Sutter, who is famous for his prowess as a businessman and pioneer of California, was also a brutally violent man. While we could list dozens of documented accounts of his violence against our Miwok and Nisenan ancestors, it speaks volumes about his character that he frequently would burn down our ancestors' ceremonial roundhouses in order to "motivate" our people to work harder in his mining camps and settlements. This act is nothing short of terrorism, and a blatant act of religious intolerance and cultural genocide, and demonstrates exactly the type of brutality that John Sutter was known for by our people.

We request that the school district formally consult and discuss its school's naming conventions, as the Tribe has existed in this Valley since time immemorial and remains an important stakeholder in the local and state communities.

We look forward to working with you.



Dahlton Brown
Executive Director of Administration
Wilton Rancheria

From: Emily Mizokami
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:42 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Rename schools public comment for Aug 20th 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.

Our campaign to rename Sutter Middle School after an individual more deserving instead of a racist colonizer has more than 1000 signatures and support from parents, students and members of the Native American Community. Please update the Community on this issue's progress and whether we need to form a Community Advisory board. Students should be proud of their school's namesake. John Sutter enslaved Native Americans. Other schools are named after people who believed in eugenics and a man who had many African slaves. Let us honor our wonderful community members past and present with new names for these schools.

Emily Mizokami

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