

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Julia Uribe
Comment:	The cuts being proposed to George Washington Carver would be detrimental to this school. A school that has saved my daughter from hurting herself due to the bullying that is present in larger schools in the area. Many kids in this school have similar stories and would loose a safe haven for them. The valuable small class sizes enable her to do great in school. She went from an average C student in another middle school, to an A student that loves school at Carver. Please don't cut the finances for small but life changing schools like Carver.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/5/2020 9:03:17 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jennifer Stephens
Comment:	<p>I would like to address the proposed budget cuts to the many specialty programs offered to scusd students, specifically those to George Washington Carver High School. These specialty programs are essential to many students that do not thrive in general programs. My child is an advanced student who has always performed well in school. He was part of the GATE program in elementary and middle School and enjoyed going to school. When he entered high school, he went to his neighborhood school, which had over 600 students in the freshman class. Due to the size of the school, my child just disappeared in the sea of students. He began to hate school and was disappointed in his opportunities to learn and be part of his high school community. He grew depressed and began to withdraw from everything. He then decided to move to Carver, a smaller school where he could get the attention and education he yearned for. The smaller programs are required so that our students don't flounder and get left behind. My son is extremely intellectual and, without programs like Carver, would have lost his love of learning and would have pulled away from the world. If we want our district to produce excellent students, we need to provide them with environments where they can learn and develop. Throwing them into environments where they fight with 3000 other students for attention from teachers, trying to find there place in the world, does not produce excellent students. We need small schools like Carver so students who do want to learn, who do want to excel have a place where they can do that. By cutting Carver programs, you hurt the entire district and especially hurt our students.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/5/2020 9:29:58 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Aart DeWaard
Comment:	<p>Dear Superintendent and Members of the Board,</p> <p>The Fiscal Recovery Plan has one big flaw: it does not account for out of district students that are attending the schools that run a deficit. Take, for instance, George Washington Carver located at the eastern edge of the district bordering Rancho Cordova. Currently 35% or 83 students come from other school districts. If we calculate \$11,495 per pupil, then Carver brings in an additional \$954,085 ADA to SCUSD. Carver's calculated deficit is \$500,000; but if Carver students leave, the district's net loss is $\\$954,085 - \\$500,000 = \\$454,085$.</p> <p>Carver students come for the unique Waldorf program and will return to their home district if the Board votes to close Carver. In this scenario SCUSD would not save \$500,000, but in real numbers lose \$454,085.</p> <p>We have a golden goose here! We should actively support the growing enrollment of Carver by publicizing the program, not threaten it with budget cuts! Of course there are many other reasons to keep Carver open as other comments attest to, but just looking at these numbers makes the mere idea of cutting Carver a bad business move. I don't have hard numbers for other schools but I suspect that all our specialty programs bring in Out-of-District Dollars as well.</p> <p>So let's review this blunt axe approach and really look at what's going on at each site. And let's support our unique programs that our surrounding districts do not offer so we can bring in that extra ADA. Our students will benefit and so will our coffers.</p> <p>Aart DeWaard</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/6/2020 2:25:39 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Chardonnay Kelly
Comment:	<p>The below comments are being submitted in response to agenda item 9.3 by a parent at A.M. Winn Public Waldorf.</p> <p>Your constituents have pleaded again and again: Please do right by our students! Our children deserve to learn in an environment in which their education is demonstrably valued; in which their teachers are respected by their employer; in which they have confidence that their needs will be met; and in which all adults involved share a mutual respect for these values. Putting our community through the back-and-forth of threats to beloved programs, year after year, is damaging to all relationships here and to your reputation.</p> <p>Further, I am very disturbed by the fact the the Board of Education waived the formation of a Budget Review Committee last month and continue to be disappointed, over and over, with the dysfunctional relationship between SCUSD and SCTA. The refusal to cooperate is hurting our children and I as a parent am sick of it. It feels as though my children are being used as pawns in the bargaining game.</p> <p>This is not the time to cut funding for crucial student-centered programs in a lame-duck last act before new Board of Education trustees take office next week. Please allow this incoming class of public servants to bring their unique perspectives and experiences to the table and lend a hand in repairing the aforementioned relationships.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/7/2020 6:56:29 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sara Bailey
Comment:	<p>My name is Sara Bailey and my two children attend AM Winn. As a Title 1 Public Waldorf school, Winn provides access to a Waldorf education that many families in our district, including mine, couldn't access if we had to go outside of a public-school setting. Waldorf education provides access to music, arts, and so many rich, hands on experiential means for students to access learning. I heard a firm commitment, during the last school board meeting, that our Waldorf schools are not on the chopping block. This is wonderful news. However, our Waldorf schools, and more importantly our Title 1 schools need to keep their music and arts programs funded. SCUSD lists equity as one of its core values. You have the opportunity to put equity into action by fully funding our Title 1 and Waldorf schools arts and music programs, bi-lingual education, after school programs, and career/tech programs. The onus of solving SCUSD's budgetary crisis should not land on the backs of our teachers either. Please show us that equity, is indeed, one of your core values. Our students, families, and teachers deserve that.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/7/2020 7:55:52 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Kara Synhorst
Comment:	<p>Good evening. I have been teaching in Luther Burbank's IB program for 16 years. When my older child was starting kindergarten, we had considered many schools -but not Caleb Greenwood. Yet when they announced they were becoming an IB school, knowing the value of the program, I made the decision that day to enroll at Caleb. To cut their staffing would kill the IB program there, and would cut off the district's nose to spite its face -- the funds they save cutting one FTE are more than outweighed by the ADA the program brings in, due to parents like me choosing the IB program at Caleb.</p> <p>But to return to Luther Burbank, 100% of the students at my school receive free breakfast and lunch. It is an impoverished school and neighborhood. The IB program there is not a magnet -- it almost entirely serves students that live in Meadowview. Through classes like my English course, students can take an exam that earns them six units at Sac State or other colleges -- that's two full classes! The same is true of other courses, meaning students graduating from Burbank's IB program can shave almost a full year off the time it takes to graduate from college. Data shows that IB Diploma students are drastically more likely to graduate college in four years, and have higher six year graduation rates than average as well.</p> <p>Each IB exam costs \$120, and a diploma candidate student's fees are around \$900. I don't think I have a single student that could pay for that themselves. The fiscal recovery plan suggests saving money by not paying for IB exams, but at what cost? The futures, the educational goals, and the college educations of my students are at stake.</p> <p>You have a \$93 million dollar emergency fund. We are in an emergency. Use it to protect these valuable programs. Don't yank the rug out from under impoverished, goal-oriented, hard-working students.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/8/2020 8:24:40 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Elizabeth Campbell
Comment:	<p>I am the parent of a child at Kit Carson International Academy and I am writing to address the proposed budget cuts, including cuts to International Baccalaureate programs that would effectively destroy those programs.</p> <p>The IB programs, other than the Early Years Program at Caleb Greenwood, are primarily at high poverty schools. They provide a path to college credits for students who would not otherwise have access to those credits. Unlike AP programs, they assist students who might otherwise be left behind.</p> <p>I know that cuts are inevitable but I would urge the board to maintain a focus on equity and protecting our most vulnerable students.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/8/2020 8:53:21 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Eric Richards
Comment:	You propose cutting the instructional staff at Arthur A. Benjamin Health Professions High School by half- we already operate on a "skeleton crew." How are we supposed to offer A-G coursework with only 6.5 teachers left if this proposal were to come to fruition? I hope you will reconsider this proposal. Our students and community deserve better. Don't we have a fairly large "emergency reserve?" Does not this district created mess reflect an emergency? And- for goodness sake- please start balancing the books. How did we even reach this point?

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/8/2020 10:17:39 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Na Lee Her
Comment:	By accepting this plan, it will not allow low income students to complete their IB diplomas. The idea of being an IB candidate and working hard for it will only make student feel disappointed and useless if they are unable to completely fulfill the IB diploma. With that said, it may make less students take the IB route in high school and may make students feel unhappy about it at the same time since IB is one of the ways to get students into a college of their choice.

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/8/2020 1:06:10 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Amy Woodhull
Comment:	<p>I am a parent of two boys that attend Caleb Greenwood and Kit Carson Academy. My husband and I are strong proponents of the public school system. We moved to the Sacramento area four years ago and chose to reside where the school programs such as IB were available. My child had previously attended a STEM school in Napa County, and although that program was phenomenal, the IB program has far exceeded our expectations. The IB program truly defines a global learning path, the focus on strong academics, personal development and working within your community, state and world. This resonates within our current social climate. I have an eight grader at Kit Carson who LOVES his school and is excited about working toward and earning the IB Diploma program. This is a challenging program and offers such amazing benefits to our youth. My other son, a third grader at Caleb has flourished in the IB program and he too wants to continue this path. It would be hard, but the impact of the loss of the IB program would facilitate removing my kids from the SCUSD district. I now many parents, teachers and students are advocating for the school board to deny the cut to the IB Coordinator which effectively cuts the IB program. I hope collectively you can find budget solutions that will keep these amazing and much needed programs in our district. Please consider our voices, our call to action and our plea to save IB.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Sincerely</p> <p>Amy Woodhull</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/8/2020 1:38:21 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Tyler Woodhull
Comment:	<p>i am a student at KCIA and was at Caleb before. I love the IB Program and KCIA. The IB programs gives students a great education and more opportunity for learning and growth. But more important, its a global view and helps us to learn as people, to think outside the box to be active in our community and our world. Without IB at my school I would be sad. The program has pushed me to experience more and challenge myself. I hope you listen to the community and do whatever it takes to ensure the IB program stays in our district.</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>Tyler</p>

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/8/2020 1:41:28 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Stan Androlowicz
Comment:	<p>In regards to the budget adoption proposal.</p> <p>I am the current LDV Middle School Science teacher and have taught there for the last 15 or so years. I love our school program and I believe that we as a Middle School team do an above and beyond job connecting with, teaching, and mentoring our students before sending them on their way to high school. I have spoken with numerous high school teachers in the district who have shared their opinions that our students are highly prepared when they come to them. We are a very small program at a K-8 school and we have literally one teacher for each core subject which includes both 7th and 8th graders. We have one ELA teacher, one History teacher, one Science teacher, one Math teacher, one PE teacher and one Art teacher. We can not afford a single teaching position to be eliminated or else by eliminating one spot, our entire MS program ends and our school becomes a K-6 school, no longer a K-8.</p> <p>I am also, along with 3 other teachers of our tiny middle school, a parent of a 6th grader who will be moving up to middle school next year. We have all stayed together as a team for over 10 years as all of our kids have joined and come up through our school program and we are all looking forward to our own kids joining our middle school. We all believe in the K-8 model and feel that the experience we offer as a small k-8 school is most appropriate for many kids as well as our own rather than joining a much larger comprehensive middle school. At our school, we are able to teach the same kids two years in a row for both the 7th and 8th grade curriculum. We are able to get to know the students, their learning styles, strengths, and weaknesses, as well as getting to know them personally more than if we only taught them for one year. I think eliminating the LDV middle school program would be a horrendous mistake and would be sacrificing a wonderful program in lieu of a tiny fiscal savings. I think there are many other areas where cost savings can be found that have less impact on our students and their educations.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my response. Stanley Androlowicz</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/8/2020 2:02:12 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Zeeshawn Khan
Comment:	The Fiscal Budget Plan will heavily affect Arthur A. Benjamin Health Professions High School and destroy the futures of more than 150+ students. The staff of AABHPHS will be cut by 50% which means that teachers, counselors, extra-curricular teachers, special education staff, and many other roles will be eliminated. This will erase any possibilities of A-G Course Completion. Most or all Universities and Colleges that promise a future for me and my fellow students require completion of A-G. The future of more than 150+ students and staff members of Health Professions High School is on the line. Please consider my request.

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/8/2020 6:47:28 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jamie Korner
Comment:	<p>I am a parent of a 10th grade student at George Washington Carver High School. The proposed budget cut to this small school poses an existential threat to the school, as they likely won't be able to hire enough teachers for all grades and all subjects with such severe budget cuts. The closure of Carver would be devastating to my daughter, as she won't be able to find another school like Carver. This school has exceeded our expectations for high school in so many ways. The teachers are passionate and caring, and the curriculum integrates the arts with university prep classes. The school also includes a focus on helping the community and social-emotional development, which is exactly what my daughter and other teens need. Furthermore, the teachers and staff facilitate the creation of a supportive and inclusive environment, where my daughter feels welcomed and accepted by the community. At Carver she is not only is completing A-G requirements to prepare for college, but she is encouraged and supported as an artist and as a human being. We urge the school board to support Carver as much as possible, as we are very likely to leave the district if this school closes. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jamie Korner</p> <p>resident of SCUSD area 2</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/8/2020 6:56:18 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Doris Reese
Comment:	Statement

Speaking as: Employee
Email
Tel:
Date/time Stamp: 12/8/2020 7:09:09 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Anna Symkowick-Rose
Comment:	<p>Sacramento City Unified School Board Members,</p> <p>Speaking as both a parent and as a teacher at Caleb Greenwood Elementary, I would like you to consider the repercussions of defunding the International Baccalaureate Program. Our school has increased enrollment as well as rigor since we have adopted the IB program. The consequences of losing our IB director will lead to the discontinuation of our program. This will certainly have negative impacts on the school district. Being a neighborhood school, the increased enrollment is evidence that people are choosing to stay in our school district rather than leave. If we return to pre-IB enrollment, it will hurt our district financially. The district will lose a quality program that attracts the neighborhood. The other programs that are slated to lose dollars are also programs that attract families. If these programs are discontinued due to lack of financial resources, the natural consequence seems likely to be decrease in enrollment. Losing students is not in the best interest of our district when we are discussing fiscal recovery.</p>

Speaking as: an employee and a parent of student's in the school district

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 4:16:50 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Julie Castro-Feliciano
Comment:	<p>Good afternoon! I recently found out that one of the items being proposed is to cut the funding to pay for IB exams for high school students and have parents pay for the exams. I do not agree with this. This is discouraging those that join the IB program to take advanced classes and take the exams to earn the college credits. If students have to pay for the exams many would not be able to. What is the incentive for taking these advanced courses? I know for Luther Burbank High School the IB program attracts students to the school that otherwise may not want to attend this high school. The school is low income so how would the kids/families pay \$100+ per exam? Perhaps if the exams weren't so much money. Or maybe the district pay a portion and the families a portion, but cutting completely. These are children already at an economic disadvantage. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 4:42:31 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Julie Sladen
Comment:	My name is Julie Sladen. I have two children who have attended G.W.Carver. One graduated this year and the other is currently in 10th grade. We have never lived in the Sac City Unified School District, but have gone out of our way to enroll our kids in the Waldorf curriculum at Alice Birney and at Carver. These programs are excellent and should be modeled by the other schools instead of cut. They have the best environment for learning. I would be incredibly disappointed in the district for targeting these phenomenal schools for cuts and would be forced to take my child out of the Sac City district should Carver be forced to close.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 5:00:32 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Gus Bailey
Comment:	<p>I am a sixth grade student at A.M Winn and I really hope that A.M Winn keeps it's middle school because that is one of the things that I really like about my school. I have been at A.M Winn for 8 years now. I know you're probably like "but you're in sixth grade so it should be seven years" but I wasn't old enough to go from kindergarten to first grade because I was born in October, what I am trying to say is A.M Winn is like my home away from home. Also I think it would be really really hard to switch schools during the pandemic. So please keep the middle school (especially if Covid-19 keeps up till next year). :(I really think that A.M Winn should have an elementary sports teams because for me it was really great, it gave me something to do. It taught me leadership skills and I made some new friends. I think it will be really good for kids who want to join a sports team because usually you know everybody who is playing with you.</p> <p>Elementary sports makes you push yourself past your limit.</p> <p>Sincerely: Gus a. Bailey</p>

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 5:06:22 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jennifer Wallace
Comment:	<p>My name is Jennifer Provenza Wallace and I am a parent of students at Leonardo da Vinci. I am writing to express my concerns with item 9.3 that you are taking action on this Thursday.</p> <p>My first request to delay action on this item. Parents were not given input on this item and there needs to be time for people to weigh in.</p> <p>My second request is that these cuts are reevaluated. While I understand that painful cuts need to be made, LDV's middle school program should not be on the chopping block. Eliminating this amount of FTE would require the program to completely close, yet these students would still require the same number of teachers at other schools. It will NOT actually save any money for the district. The middle school at LDV pays for itself with incredibly low absentee rates compared to other schools. It is also SO incredibly detrimental to our children to make them change schools just after coming out of this terrible pandemic.</p> <p>This is a program where teachers are going above and beyond and teaching electives that they aren't even required to teach. Elimination of the program will simply not save money and will cause extreme harm.</p> <p>I urge you to work with your fellow trustees to come alongside the district to find better ways to save money. This moment in time requires us to be creative and lead in ways that feel new and different. I urge you to use your leadership for good and to make sure that the students of SCUSD are better protected from the financial crisis that faces us.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 6:13:04 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sierra Jacobs
Comment:	<p>I am Sierra Jacobs and I am a senior at George Washington Carver School Arts & Science. Carver completely changed my outlook on my education. Before I came to Carver I attended Albert Einstein Middle School. I began high school at a large comprehensive high school. I wasn't able to talk to the teachers or staff. At Carver, I am comfortable with almost every teacher on campus and know that I can always go to them, whether it's a question on homework or just needing someone to talk to, they are always there. Carver is a school that allows you to be who you are without being judged. It isn't about the clothes you wear or how expensive your backpack is, Carver understands that. I know that I can go to school everyday and feel safe and confident. Teachers at Carver truly changed my outlook on learning. They make our classes engaged and creative by doing things like open discussions and art assignments. Before, I tended to lose focus and not want to do the work. Now I enjoy going to class everyday and learning something new. George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science isn't just another high school, it is the first public Waldorf high school in the nation. Today there are only three in all of America. While the school may seem like something small, it makes a big difference and I couldn't have asked to go to a better high school.</p>

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 8:19:54 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Beth TenPas
Comment:	<p>My name is Beth TenPas and I'm a community member with Sacramento ACT as well as a former volunteer with Reading Partners at Brett Harte Elementary.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* 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. The students I tutored in Reading fall into these categories.* 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.* Our group is 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.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 8:52:45 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Tara Thronson
Comment:	<p>Tonight we continue to face our well-documented structural deficit. It's difficult to stomach the thought of implementing the non-negotiable options before the Board tonight, knowing that many of them will severely impact the quality of education offered to the students in SCUSD. The decisions before us deserve proper vetting. They also should be done as a holistic solution - one that includes negotiated solutions.</p> <p>Our structural deficit has been building for many years. It's not fair to fix this historical challenge on the backs of the students. Now is the time for collective sacrifice. It shouldn't just be our children carrying the sacrifice. We need their adult leaders to share in the commitment to resolving our long-term budget deficit.</p> <p>Cuts will need to be made. I'll say it again - I want the necessary cuts and budget solution to be developed by our local leaders and decision-makers - not by an appointed Administrator who will be tasked with finding solutions to both resolve our structural deficit AND pay back a state loan with interest.</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: 12/9/2020 9:19:23 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Ian Strimaitis
Comment:	<p>Superintendent Aguilar and School Board Members, Our family has attended recent Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) budget meetings and reviewed and discussed your proposed Fiscal Recovery Plan with our son’s elementary school Principal, Parent Teacher Student Organization, and other parents and teachers.</p> <p>We also understand and support the conclusions from ALL the internal and external audit reports that have been conducted over the past several years, and appreciate all the hard work that you and your team have put into sharing the information from these reports. We interpret this Recovery Plan as an unfortunate, default-type of response to the Sacramento City Teachers Association's unwillingness to negotiate in an effort to balance the SCUSD’s budget in the long term.</p> <p>Our son attends Caleb Greenwood Elementary and enjoys the IB curriculum thoroughly. Since Caleb Greenwood became an IB school, enrollment has increased by over 150 students and with the ADA funds that this student population brings into the District, the IB program pays for itself and more! We understand that if you cut this IB coordinator position, the school loses its IB accreditation. You might be able to save some money now, but the District will ultimately lose money if parents decide to transfer their kids to different schools in different districts or to private institutions.</p> <p>It is unfortunate that you have chosen to propose this Fiscal Recovery Plan, especially when you and our family know it cannot mathematically address the root cause of the problem.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please do NOT cut the International Baccalaureate Coordinator position, or any other funds that affect this program at Caleb Greenwood Elementary. 2. Please do NOT cut any funding that will affect the IB program at Kit Carson International Academy. 3. Please do NOT implement any part of this Fiscal Recovery Plan. Data shows that the Fiscal Recovery plan is not addressing the root cause of your district’s financial structural deficit debacle – it is just “kicking the can down the road”. 4. Please DO pursue a direction that directly works towards creating a solvent SCUSD – even if it takes 15 or 20 years, and even if things have to get worse before they get better. 5. Please DO put pressure on the Sacramento City Teachers Association to negotiate their compensation package. <p>Sincerely, Ian and Jen Strimaitis Caleb Greenwood Elementary Parents</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 9:38:25 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Angela Asch
Comment:	No cuts to any school or any program of any kind! Start and finish negotiations with SCTA first and NOW! Millions of dollars have been wasted because adults cannot adult!!! Stop this nonsense now! ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 10:12:29 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Elizabeth Meyer-Shields
Comment:	<p>My name is Elizabeth Meyer-Shields and I'm a community member with Sacramento ACT.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 10:49:53 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Alison French-Tubo
Comment:	There are many things that can be said about these possible cuts but what is burning at my heart is that most of these cuts would strike against ensuring equitable resources throughout the district and strike against serving our most under-served students, while still leaving most of the existing structural deficit--a lose-lose situation. There is no reason to vote for these cuts, they will only change the date of the receivership that some still insist can never happen, and by their nature don't address the downstream impacts to enrollment of cutting resources for programs that are working exactly as designed, even though that design requires slightly higher staffing levels. Don't make a decision without involving our three new board members.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 1:16:28 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Rosie Yacoub
Comment:	<p>Both my kids attended Alice Birney, and it looks like one of the items considered in the cuts is to staff at that school (see page 11). The Waldorf based education that the kids at Alice Birney and AM Winn addresses both the academic and emotional needs of the students who attend, and is revolutionary in a public school setting. The young men and women I have seen come out of those programs are well prepared to take the next steps in their education, and also ready to participate in their communities—because they have had a school experience that creates community. These are programs that merit full support.</p> <p>Also, one of my kids is currently at CK McClatchy, which is also on the proposal for staff cuts, which seems out-of-place for a school that is over-enrolled.</p> <p>Perhaps my largest concern is the idea of cutting school music and art programs, which I find chilling. This is how kids engage creatively, and for some, this is where they find community (not everyone is sporty) and a reason to be interested in school. If kids don't engage in the arts as students, we are preparing them to be artless and less appreciative of arts. And art is one of the things that makes life good, and communities strong and vibrant. Also, the proposed cut doesn't seem like it hugely addresses the shortfall. Is threatening to take art away from the students a Judo move taken by District planners to get submission from the teachers?</p> <p>I think what is being presented here is potentially narrow in its evaluation of where cuts can be made, and possibly deliberately opaque to the layman. I have read some other suggestions of places to look for savings, like using emergency funds, and using in-house attorneys instead of outsourced ones, which I wonder about, and think should be addressed . There are proposed changes to health care, but did the District negotiate the best price for their existing health care? Finally, on that table at the bottom of page 6, who isn't included in those proposed measures? In my estimation, teachers and staff who do the bulk of the work at the schools should be impacted least by proposed cuts. So for example, if a one-day furlough is proposed for teachers, there should be a 2-3 day furlough proposed for top administrators, including the superintendent. Fair is fair.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 7:06:16 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Melissa Mendoza
Comment:	My children attend George Washington Carver high school and I feel that cutting this school would be removing a unique curriculum and culture that doesn't exist in the Sacramento area. We travel from out of district to attend this school which has been a safe haven for my kids. My daughter has never felt more accepted for who she is and we have truly seen her education and happiness thrive. My son is a freshman, he is Autistic and we chose this school because we know he would be supported and socially accepted. Losing George Washington Carver would be taking away a safe place for these kids after a year that has already taken so much.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 7:15:45 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Amanda Paskey
Comment:	<p>As a parent of two SCUSD children, I am appalled by the suggestions before the board to right the district financially. How, in good conscience can you consider these draconian measures that will cause irreparable damage to our kids? Eliminate or decrease staff at school sites, eliminating the middle school portion of K-8 schools, cutting visual and performing arts funding-- all of these deeply impact our students in a positive way-- and for some students, these are the ONLY reasons they want to come to school. Why would you not try all other means of cuts first before suggesting cuts that will force our children to sacrifice, and give everything that makes school a positive place for them to learn?? These cuts will only widen the achievement gap for disproportionately impacted student populations. Should these cuts be implemented, our family will seriously consider leaving the district for school opportunities where my children are valued, respected and HELD HARMLESS for the poor fiscal mismanagement of adults. You MUST find other ways to become fiscally solvent-- you can't put this on the children.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 7:42:25 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Irina Staley
Comment:	<p>The proposed cuts disproportionately affect disadvantaged and vulnerable students and students with disabilities.</p> <p>Cuts to GW Carver HS would essentially eliminate the only Waldorf public HS in the district and one of a few campuses with a safe and supportive community for vulnerable students and those who struggle in traditional/comprehensive school settings. If Carver (already bare-bones) programs are cut, families will be left to choose between sending their children to learning environments which will be harmful to them, or leaving SCUSD altogether. By cutting specialty programs like the one at Carver, the district will cause harm and danger to the most vulnerable student population. This is unethical, and unsatisfactory.</p> <p>As a parent of a student with a disability at Carver, I urge you to rescind these unethical proposed cuts, and support vulnerable and disadvantaged students at Carver and throughout SCUSD.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 7:47:24 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Deborah Meltvedt
Comment:	<p>Right now, in the middle of a pandemic and another health care disparity example, we are seeing how important it is to have a qualified, diverse health care work force in Sacramento. We are also in the middle of a different epidemic of youth mental health challenges and education inequality, and can see the importance of educating vulnerable students who need extra support to follow their dreams of being doctors, nurses, counselors, respiratory therapists, and more. Health Professions High School is a small learning environment that works hard to provide Sacramento with a diverse workforce and to give children from a variety of backgrounds a chance to succeed and a chance to help the sick and suffering in our community. Our students have big hearts and great minds, but they need a safe, focused, career tech environment to help them become the healers of the future. We offer STEM classes, study skill classes, a-g classes, dual enrollment, commitments from health care partners to serve as mentors, and critical and creative thinking venues to help our students be the next therapist or physician at the side of your loved ones. So, instead of taking away funding from our school, you should be investing in the most important economic and compassionate workforce of the future. 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. Nothing matters more than our kids' education, except perhaps saving the lives of our loved ones from disease. Health Professions High School strives to do both. Please invest, don't eliminate. Hearts and history will be watching.</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 8:35:24 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sarah Kahle
Comment:	<p>My name is Sarah and I'm a parent and a mental health researcher.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 8:54:24 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Martha Paterson-Cohen
Comment:	Now more than ever social workers and mental health care providers should not be eliminated or reduced, but actually increased. Cuts should be made from wasteful administrative costs first.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 9:04:12 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jennifer Clemens
Comment:	<p>I have been a teacher at Arthur A. Benjamin Health Professions High School since we opened in 2005. Our small school has taught the diverse students of Sacramento to be successful in college and career after graduation. With our school’s healthcare theme, graduates from our school have entered the healthcare workforce, where their diverse backgrounds have been underrepresented. Year after year we have had to fight to keep budget cuts from closing down our school. The current fiscal plan would cut our teachers by more than half, making it impossible to run a school. It is simply not feasible. The district claims to “put students first,” but time and again our students at our school have been denied the type of education they deserve. Our students, families, and community partners see the value in our school, but it is unfortunate that our district does not. I am asking that the budget be adjusted to include a feasible FTE allotment so that we can continue to do what we do best - provide opportunities for students in our communities who generally lack access to high quality programs such as the one at Health Professions High School.</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 9:09:45 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Lauren Wolkov
Comment:	<p>I am a community volunteer with the Sacramento Area Congregations Together (Sacramento ACT) Education Committee which advocates for mental health services for youth and prioritizing disadvantaged and underserved students in the budget decisions of the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD). While I can appreciate the challenging financial situation the District is facing, I and my colleagues 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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. Each proposed budget cut should include the number of students and the demographics of the students who will be impacted by the 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. The LCAP identifies some of these programs at school sites and positions, especially assistant principals, as being funded with LCFF supplemental and concentration funding. Whatever cuts are made to programs and services that contribute to increasing or improving services under LCFF (indicated in the LCAP or Learning Continuity Plan) should be transparent so that the advisory committees and community stakeholders know what's being done with the proportion of supplemental/concentration funding the neediest students have generated for the district.2. Prioritizing mental health includes not cutting 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 third 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. This and other options should be explored to maximize resources for our students.4. Please recognize that the highest-risk students and parents served by specific programs that will be harmed or closed by these cuts, may not be well-represented by public communications with the Board. You still have a responsibility to these students. Impacts of currently proposed cuts will fall on the schools who serve the most vulnerable students and on student mental health resources. <p>I hope that you will include these four recommendations in your deliberations. Thank you.</p>

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Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 9:40:21 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Ashley Simmons
Comment:	<p>My name is Ashley and I'm a parent of an AM Winn student, and community member with Sacramento ACT. I urge the board to cut from the top and develop ways to increase revenue, and avoid cutting programs for our kids.</p> <p>Most concerning (and I list thus first so it makes it in the public reading) is the fact that the superintendent Jorge Aguilar took a pay increase over \$30k last year when he is clearly failing at his job and FAILING OUR STUDENTS. Jorge, you deserved a reduction in pay and there is no way in hell your scrappy job of managing funds deserves over \$400,000, more than the governor, more money than an entire school can fundraise from the pockets of ALL parents and the community, or anymore than you are willing to pay our teachers who are on the front lines with our students everyday.</p> <p>That being said, 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:</p> <p>Analyze how any cut will effect the quality of education of the students. Revisit why you implemented the programs in the first place and hold on to that value. Evaluate how cutting any programs not only affects regular schools but also how it affects specialized schools such as Waldorf as the cuts you proposed would eliminate major parts of the BASIC Waldorf curriculum.</p> <p>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, and would greatly impact the Waldorf Schools as they are centered around the arts that you intend to cut or limit.</p> <p>PRIORITIZE OUR STUDENTS AND KEEPING THE PROGRAMS THEY DESERVE. For all it is worth, if I consider how much I donate to fundraisers or supplies to maintain the basic curriculum of Waldorf education that the district already fails to support, I could just as easily pull her out of SCUSD and home school her for a cost</p>

savings to myself and the district would lose out on monies per child. You will lose either way if you fail to do your job and support our children. I will prioritize my students success over your half hearted attempts to provide a "quality education" if you cut any of the programs that are on the chopping block without cutting dramatically from the top or finding alternatives to increase revenue.

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.

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.

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.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 10:02:53 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Nancy Marsh
Comment:	<p>After attending Golden Valley Charter School for four years and homeschooling for six years with a Waldorf-methods curriculum emphasis, my daughter looked forward to choosing GWCarver as the place where she would attend high school. We have lived in the Folsom Cordova Unified School District since she began schooling but knew exactly what kind of education we wanted her to receive. We chose a Waldorf methods education because it emphasizes hands-on work, creative experiences, critical thought, and a deep, meaningful relationship to literature, science, history, math, physicality, and the arts. SHE chose GW Carver for those same reasons. If Carver were not around, she would be homeschooling with one of the many homeschool charters in the region or we would be traveling to a district outside of SCUSD that values a small, personal environment and creative, passionate educators. My daughter would not be attending SCUSCD. If it is about money, you would lose ours.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 10:09:22 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Richard Ware
Comment:	My daughter is a student at Leonardo da Vinci elementary school (LDV). It's my understanding that item 9.3 would result in the elimination of the middle school program at LDV. I implore you not to adopt this item! I can tell you that the education my daughter is getting at LDV, even with distant learning, is astounding. Eliminating the seamless transition into middle school goes against your mission statement of "helping students graduate as globally competitive life-long learners who are prepared to succeed..." While I know the school district has a lot of tough decisions to make, this should not be one of them. Please put education FIRST and reject item 9.3. Thank you!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 10:14:58 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Angela Marley
Comment:	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Angela Marley and I am an employee and parent at Leonardo da Vinci school. I am writing to express my concerns with item 9.3 that you are taking action on this Thursday. The document lays out budget cuts that are detrimental to the students of Sacramento City Unified.</p> <p>My first request is to delay action on this item. I request this for a few reasons. First, these cuts have a profound impact on the student experience and as a parent I do not feel as though I was able to give enough input on how these decisions will shape the outcome of my child's education. Given the proposed cuts, there was not enough time for our community to weigh in.</p> <p>My second request is that these cuts are reevaluated. In looking at the impact statements, there are far too many programs/roles that may be eliminated at the detriment to students of SCUSD. I understand that we are in a dire situation financially AND I do not believe that these cuts are the right ones to be making.</p> <p>I strongly oppose the elimination of the middle school at LDV because our goal for picking a K-8 school was to have our children transition only once in high school. Studies have shown that transitioning to a middle school can have a negative impact on a child psychologically and socially. For the psychosocial health of our children it was important that they have a school that went to 8th grade. To have the trajectory of our children's life disrupted with the possible change in stability in middle school disrupts my children's social emotional development. LDV's middle school also offers a rigorous academic program that would possibly enhance our children's future goals with selective high school choices and positive outcomes for college attendance.</p> <p>In addition, it also doesn't make sense for you to cut the middle school because</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The middle school at LDV pays for itself and then some. According to ADA data, from 2016-2019, LDV had the lowest rate of chronic absenteeism compared with other SCUSD middle schools. For example, in 2018-19, LDV's chronic absenteeism rate was 4.5% while rates at two nearby middle schools were 17.15% at Cal and 16.1% at Sam Brannan. It does not make sense to eliminate a program that is financially sound.2. There is an abundance of data that suggests that smaller middle schools are better for students than larger middle school environments.3. In comparison, LDV middle school has stronger data across all dimensions (according to the CA Dashboard).4. LDV could be a proof point for our district and it could support broader learning that would be better for our district over all.

5. Middle school is a really hard time for kids. Keeping them in an environment they know and with people they know can be really stabilizing for some students.

LDV is a special community that I and my family have been a part of since 2011. I have 3 children, 2 at LDV, and 1 whom just graduated from middle school last year. They have had the best experience at LDV educationally, socially, and emotionally. The middle school in particular gave my older son a positive middle school experience and he was able to navigate his first year in high school with success academically due to LDV preparation in middle school. My second child is now attending LDV's middle school in all GATE classes and is exceling academically and emotionally. This is an important part of what makes LDV's middle school so important. During our current time and a global pandemic my child is able to have a positive experience at LDV because the middle school program is engaging and supportive for all the children and teachers know each child specifically and their academic needs individually. This is a school where the teachers know each child by name and not just a seat taken in a classroom. They are a community and family for the two years that our children attend LDV's middle school. This makes LDV one of the best schools and programs in our city.

I urge you to work with your fellow trustees to come alongside the district to find better ways to save money. This moment in time requires us to be creative and lead in ways that feel new and different. I urge you to use your leadership for good and to make sure that the students of SCUSD are better protected from the financial crisis that faces us.

Best,

Angela Marley

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 10:20:51 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jason Weiner
Comment:	<p>President Ryan, Board Members, & Superintendent Aguilar,</p> <p>I am writing as a Board member of Sacramento Area Congregations Together and as a parent of three students in the District, in the 3rd, 5th, and 7th grades. Although my kids will absolutely be affected by the proposed cuts, that is not why I am submitting this comment. My children have resources and supports that others do not, and those students do not have enough people advocating for them.</p> <p>I join my friends from SacACT in urging you to slow down these budget cuts and implement an equity lens for them, protecting mental health and social work services, and exploring alternative revenue options. But I also call on you to consider how the impacts will fall most severely on the highest-risk students and parents, who may not be as well-represented by public communications with the Board. While we realize that minimum requirements and negotiated agreements severely limit where cuts can be made, these choices would clearly affect the District’s ability to serve its poorest and most vulnerable students.</p> <p>- American Legion HS and Sacramento Accelerated Academy - the sites that serve only students who need to get back on track in order to graduate - would lose their assistant principals and a counselor. The District’s own presentation says “American Legion students are among the most at-risk students in the District and face many challenges such as being homeless, in foster care, and involvement with the juvenile justice system.” Without an assistant principal, American Legion would likely have to end its restorative practices program, which has been extremely effective in reducing punitive discipline and keeping these kids in school.</p> <p>- This move would likely close the Accelerated Academy. 41 percent of African-American seniors who graduated last year - and 27 percent of all graduates - relied on credit recovery courses.</p> <p>- Rosa Parks K-8 and John Still K-8 would both also lose assistant principals and classified staff. Rosa Parks would also lose teachers, likely leading to the closure of its middle school. Both serve the Meadowview neighborhood, meaning that an entire community would suffer.</p>

- The District would lay off 5.84 FTE of social workers - a 16% decrease in staffing - just as they are the lifeline for students who have been disconnected or even missing during distance learning, and as we transition back to in-person schooling and begin to deal with the trauma many students have been experiencing. These are also positions that can bill for services through LEA Medi-Cal, so SCUSD would lose access to that revenue, making this move especially short-sighted.

Lastly, many of these positions and services have been supported through LCFF Supplemental and Concentration funding, which comes to the District because of enrolled low-income, English Learner, and foster youth students and must be spent to benefit their education. To cut the programs and staff who support these students in order to shift the Supplemental and Concentrated funds to other programs and schools would likely be a violation of the District's obligations under the state LCFF law.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 10:32:18 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Alina Cervantes
Comment:	<p>I am combing time with Krystal Moreno.</p> <p>The issue of looming state receivership has been known for more than a year. We have been warned by Sac County Office of Ed, the FCMAT, the state auditor, and countless teachers and parents who have stood before you. Yet Borsos and SCTA leaders demonstrate no urgency in making a deal that would prevent it. Just like we knew for months that we couldn't return to school and here we are the only district without a distance learning plan in the middle of a global pandemic. No urgency from SCTA just like the people with power on the Titanic. We are sinking and they are denying the life boats.</p> <p>We should not be discussing cuts to programs, particularly potentially illegal cuts to students with disabilities, until all negotiated solutions have been explored.</p> <p>In 2014, according to an article in Sac News and Review, "the district proposed sending its health care bid out to market instead of simply accepting the proposed increase. The district estimated this could have saved between \$3 million and \$6 million without impacting health care coverage. Unfortunately, the union contract named Health Net and Kaiser specifically, so even if the medical benefits stayed the same, changing the health care provider required a modification of the union contract. The union refused. And so the district was unable to put its health care contract out to bid, and continues to pay too much for health care benefits."</p> <p>The union's unwillingness to cooperate with the district to reduce health care costs was shortsighted.</p> <p>It was shortsighted at a May 2016 SCUSD board meeting, when Borsos demanded that the district get rid of a a concession to trim health care for new hires.</p> <p>It was shortsighted In 2018, when four of the five labor groups joined together and signed an agreement to work together on health care costs savings, and SCTA refused to join.</p>

In a Dec. 2019 CAP radio interview SCTA president David Fisher acknowledged that, if the district changed health care providers, it would save between \$11 million and \$16 million, and then falsely claimed that the district was not willing to do it.

It is shortsighted now, as SCTA dismisses the severity of unfunded liabilities and continues to call the budget crisis a hoax. Now is the time all parties should have been coming together over the last year to make a deal for our kids, but not even a global pandemic could make it happen.

20/20 vision is a term used to express typical visual acuity. It is a shame that 2020 couldn't bring all stakeholders the clarity and sharpness of vision our children deserved. Those of us who deal in facts and logic, understand we will now start to see the deep cuts to important programs we were warned about. Please protect the most vulnerable children as best you can.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 10:34:07 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Krystal Moreno
Comment:	I am combining time with Alina Cervantes and she will be delivering the comment.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 10:35:44 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sheri Patrick
Comment:	<p>First, I 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. Consider prioritizing mental health & protecting social workers when thinking about the cuts. 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. 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. 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. Impacts of currently proposed cuts will fall on the schools who serve the most vulnerable students and on student mental health resources.</p> <p>Please look through a lens of equity when considering where to cut the budget.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 10:42:44 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Alison French-Tubo
Comment:	To complete my earlier submitted comment, the full inclusion program at Cal and the CTE for engineering and sciences and the Linked Learning at SES are examples of programs that are working exactly as designed to serve student populations which have been underserved as a whole.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 10:56:50 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Robin Wilmer
Comment:	<p>Public Comment concerning Item 9.3 – Fiscal Recovery Plan</p> <p>My name is Robin Wilmer and I am writing to strongly urge you to vote NO on the matter concerning the budget cutting of the VAPA/Music Teachers, with the loss of 4.8 FTE and the potential cost savings of ONLY \$837,000.</p> <p>I taught my entire 38-year career in SCUSD, teaching music to students in grades 2-12. In prior years, when music cuts were proposed, I spoke before the board. I and other teachers were told we were just trying to save our jobs, with seemingly little regard for the impact our programs made on our students. Many people rightly recognize the cross-subject benefits of music, teamwork, problem-solving, task-switching, and critical thinking among others.</p> <p>While all of that is true, I am instead focusing on how music specifically benefitted one young man.</p> <p>Over just the past week, I received a message via social media from a former student who reached out to me. His name is Donald Evans, a bi-racial young man (African-American and Asian), and he’s given me permission to use his name and words to convey the impact music, and music teachers, have in the lives of him and students far beyond the classroom.</p> <p>Below are three exchanges we’ve engaged in the past few days. His reference to the district dismantling music was in 1992. His story in his own words ...</p> <p>“Hi Mrs. Wilmer,</p> <p>You may not remember me but you have been on my mind a lot lately. You taught me from the 4th grade at Sequoia through Jr. High at Einstein. Life has been a roller coaster in which I have made my fair share of mistakes and many triumphs. The older I get, the more I appreciate your patience, passion and compassion for me and other students. No</p>

other teacher had an impact in the way you did for me. I made friendships in band that last to this day.

While in high school, I visited you at Einstein to find that the district was working to dismantle the music program piece by piece. I can't imagine a world where people like you are not able to teach children about the joy of music. Music stayed with me through college, in band and marching band. All of my best memories stem from music and you particularly. I will always be grateful for the impact you made by taking the time to connect with a spoiled brat like me. Apologies for all the bad behavior. No excuse, but my family life was a mess, and I acted out a lot in school. I was actually most behaved in your class out of respect, but I was still wild. Anyway, I wish you all the best. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

I asked him about his life, and the music theme circles back around and continues ...

“So great to hear from you! After graduating Jr. High, I went to McClatchy and played in the band and marching band. I loved it so much that I continued into college in the marching band. I did not play after college when things in my life took a turn for the worse, but not prolonged. Drugs and alcohol and a bad set of friends made for a bad couple years. It was a long life lesson and hasn't been repeated.

I moved to Thailand on a whim in my early 20s and bought a nightclub! It was a fun time and I learned how to DJ. Even though I was the owner, I ended up DJing for many years at my club and then at other venues. I was never famous, but I enjoyed it immensely. I started learning about making music and shifted my focus to producing. The skills I learned from you and others after you helped me with making arrangements with more depth and variety. I mainly like to create dance music, but many of my inspirations come from classical sounds.

Music is not my day job by any means, but it is still the thing that brings me the most joy. One of the songs I listen to often is The Water is Wide. A beautiful song I learned from you over 30 years ago and it still moves me. I am living in Las Vegas and my parents recently moved here to be close to me. I married a man I met in Sacramento who encourages me to pursue my passion of music and arts in general. Life is good. It has been a struggle at times and it has been a wild ride. I am thankful for many things including you! Happy holidays Ms. Wilmer. I hope you have joy in your life because you deserve it.”

I lastly asked him if I could quote him in this email. He understands and eloquently explains the intrinsic value of music programs ...

“You are welcome to use my words. You are free to use my name as well. I championed for the music program back then and will continue if there is anything I can do. Let me know if there is more that can be done.

Thanks for sharing this bad news. A long time ago I was able to have a one on one with Bill Camp when he was running for school board long before he rose in the ranks. He tried in vain to explain to me how they had tough decisions to make and not everything could be funded. Now we both understand economics so I won't bore you, but it was not easy to quantify the benefits of a music program.

To me it is like preventative healthcare. Healthier students perform better on tests, miss less school the government gives more money. So to me I see a financial benefit. Unfortunately, so many people can't see the big picture. To this day, I remain friends with a few of my Jr. High classmates and we are all better off for it. We all had bad influences around us in school and music was a grounding activity that taught is about teamwork, community and harmony. If music saves 10 students from dropping out, that's worth \$75,000 in a year. I don't know the salary for a music teacher these days but I am sure this is a meaningful impact. Children need something to look forward to and all the better if it is an enriching and rewarding experience.

Don't give up the fight! Hopefully someone will listen to reason. I will now step off my soap box."

Donald is only one of the thousands of students I taught over my career. I am only one of the many teachers who have taught music in the Sacramento City Schools. How many more Donald Evans are out there? How many Donald Evans are currently in SCUSD classrooms?

Thank you for reading Donald's story and I look forward to hearing from you with your decision in this all-important matter in the lives of our children.

Sincerely,

Robin L. Wilmer, M.A.

Retired Music Teacher - SCUSD

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:03:13 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Christian Shiflett
Comment:	Please do not take away LDV's middle school or band teacher. Music is an important part of our children's education and we want our kids to be in LDV's academic program through middle school.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:11:50 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jessica Thoma
Comment:	<p>My name is Jessica Thoma and I am parent at Leonardo da Vinci. I am writing to express my concerns with item 9.3 that you are taking action on this Thursday. The document lays out budget cuts that are detrimental to the students of Sacramento City Unified.</p> <p>My first request is to delay action on this item. I request this for a few reasons. First, these cuts have a profound impact on the student experience and as a parent. I do not feel as though I was able to give enough input on how these decisions will shape the outcome of my child's education. Given the proposed cuts, there was not enough time for our community to weigh in.</p> <p>My second request is that these cuts are reevaluated. In looking at the impact statements, there are far too many programs/roles that may be eliminated at the detriment to students of SCUSD. I understand that we are in a dire situation financially AND I do not believe that these cuts are the right ones to be making.</p> <p>I strongly oppose the elimination of the middle school at LdV. The middle school faculty are caring, talented, and committed individuals. They are teachers that go beyond what's required of their contract to provide electives, after school programs, and amazing field trips. It also doesn't make sense for you to cut the middle school because, should our middle schoolers be displaced to another school, SCUSD will still need to provide that same number of teachers, resulting in no cost savings. All it would do is close down a program that is recognized and desired by parents districtwide for their children. My older child has already gone through LdV middle school, and is prepared beyond my expectations for high school, even in the midst of distance learning.</p> <p>I'd also like to bring to your attention that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The middle school at LdV pays for itself and then some. According to ADA data, from 2016-2019, LdV had the lowest rate of chronic absenteeism compared with other SCUSD middle schools. For example, in 2018-19, LDV's chronic absenteeism rate was 4.5% while rates at two nearby middle schools were 17.15% at Cal and 16.1% at Sam Brannan. It does not make sense to eliminate a program that is financially sound.

2. There is an abundance of data that suggests that smaller middle schools are better for students than larger middle school environments.

3. LdV could be a proof point for our district and it could support broader learning that would be better for our district over all.

4. Middle school is a really hard time for kids. Keeping them in an environment they know and with people they know can be really stabilizing for some students.

LdV is a special community, one that is filled with faculty, parents and staff that show a keen interest in the individual student and the student body as a whole. Nowhere else will you find parents jumping at the opportunity to go on field trips, teachers providing extra help, and a staff that supports everyone so successfully.

I urge you to work with your fellow trustees to come alongside the district to find better ways to save money. This moment in time requires us to be creative and lead in ways that feel new and different. I urge you to use your leadership for good and to make sure that the students of SCUSD are better protected from the financial crisis that faces us.

Thank you for your attention in this matter,

Jessica Thoma

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:22:44 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Chris Thoma
Comment:	<p>My name is Chris Thoma and I am parent at Leonardo da Vinci. I am writing to express my concerns with item 9.3 that you are taking action on this Thursday. The document lays out budget cuts that are detrimental to the students of Sacramento City Unified.</p> <p>My first request is to delay action on this item. I request this for a few reasons. First, these cuts have a profound impact on the student experience and as a parent. I do not feel as though I was able to give enough input on how these decisions will shape the outcome of my child's education. Given the proposed cuts, there was not enough time for our community to weigh in.</p> <p>My second request is that these cuts are reevaluated. In looking at the impact statements, there are far too many programs/roles that may be eliminated at the detriment to students of SCUSD. I understand that we are in a dire situation financially AND I do not believe that these cuts are the right ones to be making.</p> <p>I strongly oppose the elimination of the middle school at LdV. The middle school faculty are caring, talented, and committed individuals. They are teachers that go beyond what's required of their contract to provide electives, after school programs, and amazing field trips. It also doesn't make sense for you to cut the middle school because, should our middle schoolers be displaced to another school, SCUSD will still need to provide that same number of teachers, resulting in no cost savings. All it would do is close down a program that is recognized and desired by parents districtwide for their children. My older child has already gone through LdV middle school, and is prepared beyond my expectations for high school, even in the midst of distance learning.</p> <p>I'd also like to bring to your attention that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The middle school at LdV pays for itself and then some. According to ADA data, from 2016-2019, LdV had the lowest rate of chronic absenteeism compared with other SCUSD middle schools. For example, in 2018-19, LDV's chronic absenteeism rate was 4.5% while rates at two nearby middle schools were 17.15% at Cal and 16.1% at Sam Brannan. It does not make sense to eliminate a program that is financially sound.

2. There is an abundance of data that suggests that smaller middle schools are better for students than larger middle school environments.

3. LdV could be a proof point for our district and it could support broader learning that would be better for our district over all.

4. Middle school is a really hard time for kids. Keeping them in an environment they know and with people they know can be really stabilizing for some students.

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I urge you to work with your fellow trustees to come alongside the district to find better ways to save money. This moment in time requires us to be creative and lead in ways that feel new and different. I urge you to use your leadership for good and to make sure that the students of SCUSD are better protected from the financial crisis that faces us.

Thank you for your attention in this matter,

Chris Thoma

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:24:33 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Allison Cagley
Comment:	As a 35-year resident of the City of Sacramento who was greatly impacted by receiving arts education in K-12 public education and as the executive director of Friends of Sacramento Arts, a nonprofit dedicated to arts education for our school children and youth, I implore to you retain the VAPA/Music Teachers in the budget. Study after study documents the academic and social/emotional benefits of school -based arts education - 3x higher attendance rates; 5x less likely to drop out of school and lower rates of misconduct. The nearly 70% of the SCUSD school population who are eligible for free/reduced lunch, are highly unlikely to have equitable access to music and art enrichment. Not all students will be athletes or "mathletes". Arts is integral to teaching the whole child for life-long learning no matter what academic and career paths they choose. Providing arts education is part of the California Education Code 8811. Please sincerely consider retaining the VAPA/Music Teachers line item in the budget. Thank you.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:26:19 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Kris Cameron
Comment:	<p>I am deeply concerned at the district's lack of sufficient notice and communication regarding the ending of crucial programs. One arbitrary recommendation in the Fiscal Recovery Plan might detrimentally affect my child's education. This action of eliminating a teacher and a half in the Leonardo Da Vinci Middle School, could effectively close it down, forcing parents to place their children somewhere else. There is little to no fiscal advantage to removing the teacher's in question, due to the requirements of prep periods and size of the student body.</p> <p>LDV offers a charter school-like environment that helps engage children of all races and economic status. Eliminating the 7th and 8th grade from a very productive K-8 school would be a disservice to all students. Further, my oldest child graduated from LDV and was very well prepared to handle the rigors of high school. To change the format of a very effective Middle School program or totally end it would be a tragedy and a great loss to a successful SCUSD school model.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:33:01 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Stacy Delaney
Comment:	<p>I'm a parent of a student at George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science. My daughter is in 12th grade and has attended since 9th grade as a transfer to SCUSD from another district in the region. We chose Carver because we were looking for a small high school experience with an emphasis on social justice, science, and art. We found that in Carver and so much more. The school culture is one that supports the emotional, social, and academic development of the whole student body. It's inclusive and caring while still offering a rigorous academic experience for the students. The structural deficit of the district is one that can't be ignored. I'm asking the Board and SCUSD staff to look at alternative ways to maintain these unique program offerings that attract students both in and out of the district thereby bringing funding to SCUSD that would otherwise not exist. Perhaps some of the smaller campuses can be co-located whether by grades served or thematic programming. An example is providing a K-12 Waldorf inspired curriculum at one campus. As these difficult decisions are weighed to eliminate the structural deficit, I ask you to look at creative options and partnerships as part of the process. Thank you for your time.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:44:04 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Carlin Naify
Comment:	<p>My name is Carlin Naify and I am the founding board president of Friends of Sacramento Arts. Our mission is to restore arts education to all public school students in Sacramento County. I am a former chair of SMAC, the founding president of Verge Center for the Arts and a former board member of the Crocker. My entire adult life has been dedicated to the support of the arts and art education because I know that students who participate in the arts demonstrate improved academic performance and lower dropout rates. The arts level the playing field for youngsters from disadvantaged circumstances.</p> <p>I understand that you have serious cuts to make in your budget and that you are considering the elimination of middle school band programs and band directors. Because music education is a continuum, this would have a devastating effect on music education in the district. Students who don't learn music in middle school may never learn music in their lives. High school is too late. I urge you to take this off your list of cuts. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:44:41 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Edward Hubbard
Comment:	<p>12/10/2020</p> <p>RE: Proposed Budget Cuts to Student Offerings</p> <p>Dear Sacramento City School Board Members,</p> <p>I am writing in regards to agenda item 9.3 which lists proposed cuts to Music and Arts core curriculum, Career Technical Education, and other student services. These proposed cuts will have a direct impact on thousands of students, and the district should immediately remove this as an option for mitigating budget shortfalls caused by increased costs of healthcare and other employee benefits.</p> <p>As a parent of a kindergarten student in Sacramento City Schools, we stayed in the district instead of transferring to San Juan specifically because of the arts offerings and engaging learning opportunities at A.M. Winn and Carver. I am very dismayed that the district, SCTA, and the school board would even consider removing services that directly help students engage in learning before negotiating a reasonable salary and benefits package that is comparable to other districts in the state of California. This is not a student-centered philosophy, and I implore the board to look at all other options before taking away opportunities from the students of SCUSD. If the district truly adheres to the motto: "putting our students first" then these cuts will be removed from the proposal immediately.</p> <p>First, the arts are a core academic subject in the state of California and should be treated as such. Education Code Section 51210 and 51220 states that a well rounded education includes: Visual and performing arts, including instruction in the subjects of dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, aimed at the development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative expression for grade k-12. Education Code Section 51225.3 states that the arts are Included among the academic subjects required for graduation from high school. The district cannot simply remove these services without being out of compliance and should consider this in addition to the harm these cuts will directly have on student engagement, learning, and opportunity.</p>

In regards to the proposed Career Technical Education, SCUSD has received millions of dollars of Career Technical Education Incentive grant funding that has a three year district match obligation. The 2018-19 allocation was \$1,122,221.48, and the 19-20 allocation was 1,029,530.00. I do not understand how the district will cut CTE program funds without being responsible for repaying millions of dollars in state categorical grant money since the LCAP promise is tied to these awards.

Finally, I would like to begin my closure by saying my wife has been a public educator for the last 15 years and currently works for the state. Had she moved laterally to SCUSD when we relocated from Sonoma County, she would have received a \$30,000 pay increase as well as a 20% reduction in her benefit contribution. This puts in perspective how SCUSD teachers are paid as compared to others in the state. When Covid hit, she had to take a 10% pay cut as well. It is simply unfathomable that SCTA would be willing to sacrifice the well being of students before negotiating a reasonable 3% paycut and benefit contribution that mirrors other public service employees. I have never seen a union that would sacrifice their own teachers and directly strip away resources from families and students. It is time for a compromise for the best interest of students.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ed Hubbard II, parent and community member

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:45:13 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Ursula Yisrael
Comment:	<p>The elimination of credit recovery and an option like Health Professions HS during emergency education and a pandemic is a travesty. Emergency education has resulted in tremendous loss of learning. For a fact, students who were in jeopardy of failing and not graduating in June, got a second chance at American Legion and are currently working hard to stay on track to graduation. We can expect for years to come, credit recovery will be big business as an alternative to catching up due to scholar disengagement and learning loss occurring right now.</p> <p>Society is forever changed due to the pandemic. The need for more healthcare professionals is evident. SCUSD should increase marketing for enrollment to Health Professions and have the foresight to boost the numbers of scholars to this healthcare pathway as the community needs for health professionals increases.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:49:38 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Avery Thoma
Comment:	<p>My name is Avery Thoma and I am an SCUSD student who graduated from 8th grade Leonardo da Vinci in June 2020. I am now a freshman at West Campus High School. I am writing to express my concerns with item 9.3 that you are taking action on this Thursday. The document lays out budget cuts that are detrimental to the students of Sacramento City Unified.</p> <p>LdV has also been a family for me because everyone there is so kind and willing to help in anyway. This middle school is smaller and a few people joined us for middle school and easily made friends because the Ldv community and are generous, friendly, and inclusive of everyone.</p> <p>There are before and after school clubs that the middle school provides, like the Da Vinci Café, the school presidents, vice presidents, and other school leaders. Middle school also provided a leadership program that put together many school events. The middle schoolers at Ldv were role models for the TK-6 students at LdV.</p> <p>My first request is to delay action on this item. I request this for a few reasons. First, these cuts have a profound impact on the student experience. I do not feel as though I was able to give enough input on how these decisions will shape the outcome of my education. Given the proposed cuts, there was not enough time for our community to weigh in.</p> <p>My second request is that these cuts are reevaluated. In looking at the impact statements, there are far too many programs/roles that may be eliminated at the detriment to students of SCUSD. I understand that we are in a dire situation financially AND I do not believe that these cuts are the right ones to be making.</p> <p>I strongly oppose the elimination of the middle school at LdV. The middle school faculty are caring, talented, and committed individuals. They are teachers that go beyond what's required of their contract to provide electives, after school programs, and amazing field trips. It also doesn't make sense for you to cut the middle school because, should the middle schoolers be displaced to another school, SCUSD will still need to provide that same number of teachers, resulting in no cost savings. All it would do is close down a program that is recognized and desired by parents districtwide for their children. I have</p>

already gone through LdV middle school, and I think I am prepared beyond my expectations for high school, even in the midst of distance learning.

I'd also like to bring to your attention that:

1. The middle school at LdV pays for itself and then some. According to ADA data, from 2016-2019, LdV had the lowest rate of chronic absenteeism compared with other SCUSD middle schools. For example, in 2018-19, LDV's chronic absenteeism rate was 4.5% while rates at two nearby middle schools were 17.15% at Cal and 16.1% at Sam Brannan. It does not make sense to eliminate a program that is financially sound.

2. There is an abundance of data that suggests that smaller middle schools are better for students than larger middle school environments.

3. LdV could be a proof point for our district and it could support broader learning that would be better for our district over all.

4. Middle school is a really hard time for kids. Keeping them in an environment they know and with people they know can be really stabilizing for some students.

LdV is a special community, one that is filled with faculty, parents and staff that show a keen interest in the individual student and the student body as a whole. Nowhere else will you find parents jumping at the opportunity to go on field trips, teachers providing extra help, and a staff that supports everyone so successfully.

I urge you to work with your fellow trustees to come alongside the district to find better ways to save money. This moment in time requires us to be creative and lead in ways that feel new and different. I urge you to use your leadership for good and to make sure that the students of SCUSD are better protected from the financial crisis that faces us.

Thank you for your attention in this matter,

Avery Thoma, age 14

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:51:26 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Scott Newton
Comment:	My name is Scott Newton. I am the father of a 5th grader At Leonardo da Vinci. I am providing this comment to express how strongly I feel about LDV and how concerned I am that the board is preparing, with obviously little actual consideration of the impacts, to cut funds to LDV for this quick fix loan. This action would be incredibly disruptive to some of the things about LDV That brought our family to buy a fixer-upper near the school and invest tons of thousands of dollars in our home. LDV is at the core of our community, our friendships, and our sons thriving. Please say no to this proposal!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:59:36 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Eric Wood
Comment:	<p>I am writing to request that you vote to reject the proposed cuts for George Washington Carver High School. My daughter is a sophomore who began attending after attending Golden Valley Charter School and being home schooled with a Waldorf curriculum. The personal and academic growth she's experienced over the past year and a half has been incredible. The relationships that she has formed with teachers has fed her interest in subjects that she had little interest in before - Physics, Math and Science. Her Liberal Arts classes have given her the critical thinking skills that will stay with her the rest of her life.</p> <p>Carver is the rare educational community that knows how to nourish the curiosity and creativity of students. For 23 years I have had the good fortune to teach in a similar institution where the teachers go out of their way to challenge and nurture students (University of the Pacific, Conservatory of Music). I understand the energy of a place like Carver where teachers go out of their way to find means to deliver a quality education in spite of the obstacles that Covid has created. This collective energy is something that needs to be sustained. Once gone, it doesn't come back.</p> <p>As a college educator, I see first-hand the difference between students who have had a background like that my daughter is receiving at Carver and students who have attended schools where that kind of energy and passion doesn't exist. With the latter students, there is a spark that is missing - a need to do the minimum to get the grade they desire. But for those students who have felt that passion, they carry that throughout their education and their careers.</p> <p>While the temptation is to focus on numbers and the bottom line, there is more going on here. When something is working, as it is at Carver, it's important to find creative ways to keep it going. Please reject these cuts and look for better solutions.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 10:36:21 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jeffrey Hiroshima-Chan
Comment:	<p>As a parent at the Leonardo daVinci school, would like to present the real impact to this school would be that the Middle School program would need to close as a result of the 1.6 staff reduction. I have 3 children in the school who would all be impacted by this change. My understanding is that there would be no fiscal benefit to cutting the 1.6 FTE out of LdV since our current load of the faculty would simply shift the students to other facilities and they would require the same headcount to support their education as LdV currently has. I think it has to be weighed that this 1.6FTE headcount is not just at hit that can be absorbed by the school and then class size/courses offered adjusted. This headcount reduction would shutter the school's ability to maintain a middle school which for many parents is a draw and clear win for the children's education to have that kind of continuity. I urge the board to consider these facts before applying formulaic across the board without regard to the real impacts to the schools, the faculty, the parents, and especially the children that attend this school.</p> <p>Best Regards,</p> <p>Jeff Hiroshima-Chan</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 10:39:31 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	justine hearn
Comment:	<p>Like so many other families at our school, A.M. Winn, and throughout the school district, we are disappointed and saddened to read of the proposed cuts to staffing and valued programs at our school and others. Now is not the time to make cuts. Families are living through an unprecedented time: a global pandemic, economic hardship, and major upheaval and uncertainty. If there was ever a moment that our young people needed stability and support from their school community, it is now.</p> <p>In addition to potentially displacing students during a time when so many face disorientating uncertainty, laying off teachers and cutting enriching programs risk potentially permanently losing students from our District as their families seek stability and education elsewhere. Families who are able to may find other schooling options outside of the District, while those with less mobility and resources will suffer with decreased educational quality, exacerbating the harm they have already experienced during extended distance learning and other impacts of the pandemic.</p> <p>As you move forward in considering options to address the District's financial security, I urge you to consider every alternative before cuts that will have long-lasting impacts on the health and wellbeing of our entire City.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 11:04:09 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jenn Eckerle
Comment:	<p>December 9, 2020</p> <p>Re: Reject the Fiscal Recovery Plan (Agenda Item 9.3)</p> <p>Dear Sacramento Unified School Board:</p> <p>We urge you to reject the proposed Fiscal Recovery Plan under consideration at your December 10, 2020 Board Meeting. We are deeply concerned about the potential loss of funding for Caleb Greenwood’s International Baccalaureate program and schools across the Sacramento Unified School District. We have two sons at Caleb Greenwood, in 1st and 4th grade, and are extremely happy with, and proud of, the program. The curriculum has a profound impact on the school; we see it in Principal Hanson, in the teachers, and most importantly, in the students.</p> <p>We cannot put a price tag on the value of the questions our sons ask us that obviously come from the influence of the school. We can, however, say that we live in the neighborhood in large part because of the school. We know that enrollment is way up because of Caleb’s program, and we know that everyone we have met associated with the school takes pride in its success. As we understand it, based on the enrollment formula, and the response Caleb Greenwood has received since adopting the IB program, the program more than pays for itself.</p> <p>Our family deeply believes in public education, and sincerely wants our kids to continue in public education through high school, in Sacramento. With that in mind, we have great hopes for Kit Carson given its IB program. If the district eliminates funding, we may decide to move out of the district to ensure our kids receive the solid public education they deserve.</p> <p>In short, Sacramento Unified has a gem in Caleb Greenwood, and we imagine other schools with similar programs bring similar benefits. We know the teachers at Caleb are deeply invested in the IB way of teaching, and it shows, not just with our kids, but with all the others we have met.</p> <p>When people ask us about sending our kids to school in Sacramento Unified, our candid answer is “the school district is a bit of a mess, but that we absolutely love Caleb Greenwood”. Maintaining investment in the IB program, and similar programs throughout the district, will get our family to a place where our candid answer is that “we love the school district.” That feeling has an impact, family to family, neighborhood to neighborhood.</p> <p>Love for the district means our kids stay in the district, funding comes to the district, and we create the same positive feedback loop that Caleb Greenwood has created since adopting the IB program.</p> <p>Please find a way to protect the great programs that have developed in the district. Pulling away is a recipe for a public school death spiral - where families with the means simply put their kids into private school, minimizing public school funding, which hurts</p>

the families who need public schools to be strong to give their children the opportunities they deserve.

All of our kids deserve the best. And when we have programs that deliver the best, while effectively paying for themselves, cutting them is crazy. We implore you to take responsibility for providing an education that meets the needs of ALL students and families in the Sacramento Unified School District. Not just our sons, or their schoolmates at Caleb, but students throughout the District, particularly those who rely on support programs, services and specialized teachers to meet their educational needs and students in communities that are under-resourced.

The Fiscal Recovery Plan, as currently written, will have significant and long-lasting impacts on the students, families and communities within the Sacramento Unified School District. Please reject the Fiscal Recovery Plan and continue negotiating with the Sacramento City Teachers Association to create a budget that puts the education of our children FIRST and sets the District on a path to sustained fiscal solvency.

Sincerely,

Tyson and Jenn Eckerle

Parents of two Caleb Greenwood students, 1st and 4th grade

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 11:20:04 PM

From:
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:33 PM
To: Anne Maretti
Subject: Fiscal Recovery Plan Comment Public Comment

From: Ariele Rodriguez
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:11 PM
To: Darrel Woo
Subject: Fiscal Recovery Plan Comment

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Hello Mr. Woo,

I attempted to make a public comment on the form, but while I started writing prior to noon, the comments were closed when I submitted at noon exactly. Please read and consider what I've written below in preparation for this evening, and thank you for your time.

Arielle Rodriguez

In reviewing proposed FTE cuts to K-8 programs, I am surprised that the Board is considering cutting single FTEs from schools like Alice Birney, AM Winn, and LdV. As the Board knows, a single cut would result in the total elimination of 7th and 8th grades from K-8 schools which sometimes have only 2 FTEs for the entire program. While I selfishly would not want my own school's 7th/8th program to be eliminated, if a single cut would end the program, I would prefer that we lose 2 FTEs if it meant that another school got to keep both of their teachers and hence their 7th/8th program.

As I commented weeks prior, cutting programs from unique schools like public Waldorf and LdV is not the answer to fiscal solvency. If my kids' public Waldorf school lost the programs that make the school special, our family would look to alternatives such as private school or homeschool. I believe that a large portion of Waldorf families would do the same which would result in a significant loss of funding to the District.

Finally, special programs found at Alice Birney, AM Winn, and LdV ATTRACT families to these schools. Rather than being a drain on the District's resources, they bring more students, funding, and prestige to the District as a whole.

From: chardonay provine
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2020 6:58 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment; Christina Pritchett
Subject: Public Comment - Agenda Item 9.3

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The below comments are being submitted in response to agenda item 9.3 by a parent at A.M. Winn Public Waldorf.

Your constituents have pleaded again and again: Please do right by our students! Our children deserve to learn in an environment in which their education is demonstrably valued; in which their teachers are respected by their employer; in which they have confidence that their needs will be met; and in which all adults involved share a mutual respect for these values. Putting our community through the back-and-forth of threats to beloved programs, year after year, is damaging to all relationships here and to your reputation.

Further, I am very disturbed by the fact the the Board of Education waived the formation of a Budget Review Committee last month and continue to be disappointed, over and over, with the dysfunctional relationship between SCUSD and SCTA. The refusal to cooperate is hurting our children and I as a parent am sick of it. It feels as though my children are being used as pawns in the bargaining game.

This is not the time to cut funding for crucial student-centered programs in a lame-duck last act before new Board of Education trustees take office next week. Please allow this incoming class of public servants to bring their unique perspectives and experiences to the table and lend a hand in repairing the aforementioned relationships.

From: Elisabeth Johnson ·
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 8:31 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: proposed SCUSD budget cuts.

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How dare you float the idea of cutting beloved programs that help bring equity and keep students in this district? Why don't you consider using some of the pay raise that Aguilar said he wouldn't take and using that to pay for the IB tests? Additionally, in what world is it appropriate to have a lame duck board deal with these very serious issues when they won't even be part of the team when the cuts go into effect? Typical SCUSD wanting to place blame on teachers for not giving up benefits and other monies in order to sway public opinion. This district really hates teachers doesn't it?

So frustrated with you all!

-Elisabeth Johnson, parent, teacher, community member.

From: Missy
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 11:03 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment; Lisa Murawski; Michael Minnick; Jessie Ryan; Christina Pritchett; Leticia Garcia; Mai Vang Board; Darrel Woo
Subject: Board of Education 12/11/2020 Meeting - Budget Impact Statement - Right Size Sites - LdV
Attachments: SCUSD Board Meeting - Budget Impact Statement - Comments from M. Androlowicz.docx

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Good Morning SCUSD Board Members,

Attached is a letter outlying my comments on the Budget Impact Statement - Right Size Sites - Leonardo da Vinci MS.

To reiterate what is in the attached letter, please vote to delay this entire budget vote. No outgoing board should be voting yes to these drastic cuts that deeply affect every student and many teachers. This move before many board members are on their way out is similar to that of our current Presidential administration. Trying to create as much chaos, division, and horrific impacts on individual students and their families at this time is a bad look for the already disgraced SCUSD board.

I appreciate your time and look forward to following these budget hearings further.

Sincerely,
Melissa Androlowicz

December 8, 2020

Good Morning SCUSD Board Members,

My name is Melissa Androlowicz and I have two sons attending Leonardo da Vinci K-8 School, including a sixth grader. It came as a shock as I perused through all 615 pages of the Budget Agenda to see LdV Middle School Program was on the chopping block (page 396).

As a family, we had many reasons for choosing a K-8 school, especially LdV which has an outstanding small middle school program. Their program follows the original Leva charter of thematic arts and science instruction. Without the 1.6 FTE that is proposed as a budget cut, the entire middle school program would not be able to continue as is. My children reside within the EGUSD region, but due to the fact my husband also teaches at LdV, we chose to transfer them to that school. Should this middle school program be slated to be disbanded/eliminated we would not keep them within the SCUSD for Middle School. There is no other middle school within the district that offers the small, safe, and thematic instruction that levy currently does.

I would like these public comments included in the formal record:

1. With the outgoing board members, a budget of this nature should not be voted on by the current board as the incoming board members would have to live with the ramifications of the decision. This should be delayed until new board members have adequate time to review all budget documentation.
2. Please vote **NO** to budget cuts to any of the following budget items:
 - a. Visual performing arts
 - b. GATE programs
 - c. Elementary athletics
 - d. Music programs, including voting no to terminate any music credited positions.
 - e. Eliminating the 1.6 FTE LdV position which potentially threatens the entire MS program.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Melissa Androlowicz

From: Amy W < >
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 1:34 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: FRP Item 9.3 Public Comment

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Good Afternoon,

I am a parent of two boys that attend Caleb Greenwood and Kit Carson Academy. My husband and I are strong proponents of the public school system. We moved to the Sacramento area four years ago and chose to reside where the school programs such as IB were available. My child had previously attended a STEM school in Napa County, and although that program was phenomenal, the IB program has far exceeded our expectations. The IB program truly defines a global learning path, the focus on strong academics, personal development and working within your community, state and world. This resonates within our current social climate. I have an eight grader at Kit Carson who LOVES his school and is excited about working toward and earning the IB Diploma program. This is a challenging program and offers such amazing benefits to our youth. My other son, a third grader at Caleb has flourished in the IB program and he too wants to continue this path. It would be hard, but the impact of the loss of the IB program would facilitate removing my kids from the SCUSD district. I now many parents, teachers and students are advocating for the school board to deny the cut to the IB Coordinator which effectively cuts the IB program. I hope collectively you can find budget solutions that will keep these amazing and much needed programs in our district. Please consider our voices, our call to action and our plea to save IB.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely
Amy Woodhull

From: Elizabeth Ghiorso
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 1:45 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Fiscal Recovery Plan Update, item 9.3

Dear Board Members and Superintendent Aguilar,

The District's Fiscal Reduction Plan calls for painful cuts across the district, but especially painful are cuts to the small high school programs. These small schools provide programs that give students choice and opportunities for those at risk, students who might otherwise get lost in a larger high school. My name is Beth Ghiorso and I teach English at George Washington Carver High School, the first public Waldorf high school in the country. At Carver we cultivate strong relationships with our students and make sure they have the chance to develop strong, independent voices. We ask that the district support us and other small schools in our efforts to showcase our diverse programs. Since its beginning, Carver has experienced steady growth in enrollment. That steady growth faltered about five years ago when we were no longer allowed to visit our middle schools, we were no longer permitted to make our school visible. We are not asking for the district to subsidize our deficit; we are asking that the district allow us to do our work and show our community the choices they have. We are asking that the District give us back our voice.

Diversity in our district is a strength, so why not encourage it? We at Carver bring a significant number of students into Sac City Unified (35- 40% each year). As the district makes plans to cut programs, those students will not simply be moving over to another school site; it is likely they will leave the district altogether, and take their ADA with them. How is this a sound, long term fiscal plan?

Beth Ghiorso
English Teacher
George Washington Carver
School of Arts and Science

Mike Grinstead

Sacramento City Unified School District

Board of Education Members:

Jessie Ryan, President (Trustee Area 7)

Christina Pritchett, Vice President (Trustee Area 3)

Michael Minnick, 2nd Vice President (Trustee Area 4)

Lisa Murawski (Trustee Area 1)

Leticia Garcia (Trustee Area 2)

Mai Vang (Trustee Area 5)

Darrel Woo (Trustee Area 6)

Isa Sheikh, Student Member

Esteemed Board of Education,

On December 10, 2020 you will take action on Agenda Item 9.3 which is the Fiscal Recovery Plan (FRP). Let's cut to the chase, the cuts proposed by this plan threaten the wellbeing of our students and the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) itself. These impacts would harm the City of Sacramento.

As has been detailed in your Board meetings, news reports, and multiple articles over the last few years SCUSD is facing a structural deficit. This is not a new problem. Through different avenues SCUSD has put off making real change to combat this problem. I applaud your Board for directing the creation of a FRP and facing the problem. Although this plan does little to fix the real problems while damaging the programs that keep SCUSD competitive.

Specifically the FRP proposes cuts to programs that bring students into SCUSD and make schools attractive. This is a SCUSD wide problem but let me give you one example.

Both of my boys attend Caleb Greenwood Elementary School (Caleb Greenwood). They go here because it is an IB World School. IB is one of the programs that would be cut under the FRP - while this would happen indirectly the staffing changes would result in the IB cut. Since becoming an IB World School Caleb Greenwood has (these achievements are detailed in the impact statement):

- Increased enrolment by approximately 25% and has achieved capacity with a wait list
- Increased annual revenue for both the school and the SCUSD more than covering the cost of the IB Program
- Increased student achievement scores

-
- Created a thriving school in a thriving neighborhood

Caleb Greenwood would not have made these gains without the IB program. The gains help not only the school itself but gain extra money for SCUSD as a whole. The gains also help the neighborhood by making it a more attractive place for families and young people. This in turn helps out our wonderful City of Sacramento by keeping families in the City, building roots so that children are compelled to stay and keep Sacramento a thriving place.

Caleb Greenwood is just one example but it just happens to be the example that I am familiar with. From the principal to the staff we are impressed with all. We trust our kids to the people there every day we can. We personally know families who have entertained leaving for the "better" school districts in Folsom, Roseville, and the Willhagen area but have stayed because they like the Caleb Greenwood family so much.

I am sure as a Board you hear of the families that leave the SCUSD area for "better" school districts often. While we know some who have stayed we also know plenty who have left. It is my personal belief that if you cut the programs that make Caleb Greenwood and others like it great you will make a bad enrollment problem worse. Kids will either leave the area or choose a private education. How do I know this? Because this is the conversation in my family and amongst my neighbors. We have discussed leaving for a different school district and that conversation will intensify.

This letter has made the argument that a FRP is needed due to the SCUSD structural deficit and has made the argument that the FRP as proposed would be devastating. So, how do you move forward? Well it looks like 90% of unrestricted funding pays for the benefits and salaries of staff. You are trying to solve a problem by shaving off the 10% that does not.

It doesn't take a mathematician to understand that you either need more money coming in or less money going out. Even small changes to the 10% of unrestricted funding that is not salaries and benefits will have huge consequences. It looks like you have to negotiate some small changes to the 90% of funding that is benefits and salaries.

I myself am a member of a union and believe strongly in them. SCUSD is going to have to sit down with the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA) and figure some things out. Our children have been blessed with great teachers at Caleb and it hurts to advocate taking anything away from them. That being said the only real way to make any change is to do something with the 90% of the pie that you can as you cannot generate more revenue. SCUSD entered into the SCTA contract and now has to go hat in hand to figure something out. There are also other unions and Central Office Staff. These cuts are going to be hard but what choice do you have?

Your choice is do something with salaries and benefits or welcome a State takeover. No one wants the takeover. I believe your Board would be derelict in its responsibilities if that were to happen. You will be the direct cause of the demise of a school district, falling property values, and a loss of respect for the City of Sacramento itself.

Sincerely,

Mike Grinstead

Cc: Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento Councilmember

Darrell Steinberg, Mayor City of Sacramento

National Public Radio

The Sacramento Bee

From: Stacy A Hayashi
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 4:27 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Comments on Fiscal Recovery Plan - December 10

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Dear SCUSD Board Member,

My name is Stacy Hayashi and I'm a parent at Caleb Greenwood Elementary School. I'm writing about the Fiscal Recovery Plan for a vote on December 10.

I was very disappointed to see the projected cuts in the FRP, taking away so many of the things that make Sacramento City schools special. When my oldest child was approaching Kindergarten, my husband and I visited several schools in Sac City and surrounding areas, including Charter schools in Sacramento and Yolo counties. I felt that many of Sac City's Schools offered something unique and special. We were so impressed with Caleb Greenwood and the IB program, that we chose to enroll our son there. I feel the IB program is so important, especially in this day and age, cultivating globally minded citizens.

Specifically related to the IB program, Caleb Greenwood generates enough revenue in a single year to pay for their full program expenses and generate additional revenue for the district. In addition, it has raised property values in the community, which also benefits the district. I had hoped to continue our children's IB learning at Kit Carson. However, should the program be cancelled, I almost certainly would look outside of SCUSD for Middle and High School. The IB Coordinator (which is slated to be cut) is a vital, and required, position to maintain IB status.

I understand the importance and need for fiscal responsibility however, I'm concerned about the impact the FRP has on the district's most vulnerable students, poverty-impacted students and schools.

I please encourage you... keep the programs that attract students from everywhere to attend and keep the critical support vulnerable students need to succeed.

Thank you,

Stacy Hayashi, M.Ed.
Academic Program Management Officer

Please note, during the Covid-19 closures, I will be working remotely and may have a delayed response time. Note: I will be out November 25-28 and December 18 - January 3, 2021.

From: Jaime Couch
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 4:46 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Fiscal Recovery Plan_Caleb Greenwood

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Hello,

We are Ryder and Jaime Couch and are parents of children who attend Caleb Greenwood Elementary and are also on the PTSO Board. I'm emailing about the Fiscal Recovery Plan that is up for a vote on Dec 10th. We strongly believe in the IB program at Caleb Greenwood and it is one of the contributing factors for our purchase of a home in River Park. The IB program positively impacts our children and helps mold the type of citizens that care about their surrounding community and are global citizens.

As the impetus for the Fiscal Recovery Plan is to conserve funds it is important to point out that the IB program at Caleb Greenwood Elementary generates enough revenue in a single year to pay for itself and generate additional revenue for the district. To cancel the IB program at Caleb Greenwood Elementary would take funds away from SCUSD. Prior to the IB program, Caleb Greenwood enrollment was at approximately 400 students and now is at maximum capacity of 550 students.

Please thoughtfully consider these points. We urge you to not cut the IB program at Caleb Greenwood Elementary for both the impact upon the children and the fiscal impact upon SCUSD.

Best Regards,

Ryder and Jaime Couch

From: Doris Reese
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 7:13 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Cc: Noel Estacio; Jennifer Osalbo; Rose Moya
Subject: Public Comment 9.3 Fiscal Recovery Plan Adoption

Agenda 9.3 Fiscal Recovery Plan Adoption

Good evening Board members and Superintendent Aguilar. I am Doris Reese, writing this public comment on behalf of my colleagues and most importantly the children and families who we serve in this community.

Early intervention is, perhaps, the most successful way to close the achievement gap. I am speaking of SCUSD's Early Childhood Education programs targeted to serve the most marginalized and vulnerable members of our community. There are no arguments on the significant advantages and benefits young children receive from attending preschool. The lack of these services to our marginalized families in our community can have a profound effect, thus widening the achievement gap in the Sac City community.

During the 2018-19 school year, the Child Development Department served over 2,000 children. Due to draconian reductions, we can only serve up to 1,120 preschoolers. We no longer offer a Infant/Toddler program targeted to preventing teen mothers from dropping out of high school. We no longer have a home-based program for children unable to attend a traditional center-based classroom. All of these services were cut due to the reduction of nearly 50 percent of the department, around 100 classified and 20 certificated employees lost their jobs and benefits. Support staff was reduced, including two Coordinators, four Social Workers, six Resource Teachers, a Facilities Supervisor, a Parent Advisor and a School Nurse. These positions provided critical services affecting the most vulnerable and youngest of our student population and their families.

The new Fiscal Recovery Plan includes, once again, an additional reduction of \$564,000.00 for the upcoming school year. This district contribution is required and necessary to retain Head Start and State Preschool funded services. **This proposal is the antithesis of equity** and contributes to **widening of the achievement gap** of the most vulnerable, the most marginalized, youngest children in our community. We ask that you reconsider this option and look into other avenues in order to sustain these critical services to our youngest students.

Your continual support is appreciated.

Thank you,

Doris Reese, Child Development Coordinator
Noel Estacio, Child Development Coordinator
Jennifer Osalbo, Child Development Coordinator
Rose Moya, Supervisor, Enrollment and Recruitment

From: Ingrid Foster
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 9:40 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Cc: Leticia Garcia
Subject: Proposed Budget Cuts are Short Sighted- 12/10 Board Meeting agenda item 9.3

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Dear Board,

I am writing in reference to the 12/10/20 Board Meeting- agenda item 9.3.

These proposed cuts to arts, the GATE program, language programs and specifically the IB program are absolutely horrifying as a parent, a community member (former Sac Metro Arts Commission Board Member for arts education fundraising) and frankly as a local business person.

We are sacrificing our children's education in all areas that are proven to help them excel in both math and language, to fund bloated expenses for our district at every level. These type of short sighted ideas will not only hurt our kids, but will quickly, in combination with covid shut downs, take families out of our district and into the private schools in our area that will provide a full education. The loss of students will only further drive the district into financial ruin, losing the very federal revenue it depends on to function.

Why not think this problem out further, and look to the models that provide both increasing revenue and an outstanding education for children. Namely- the IB program. Cutting the funds for the IB coordinator position and eliminating the IB program from the district is so poorly considered. The Caleb Greenwood program has grown in academic performance and revenue through increased enrollment, to be a an outstanding model for the entire district to consider. Children are learning better, wait lists are in place for every grade, community home values are increased and it seems to this IB parent who open enrolled to join this outstanding program, to be the proverbial "win win."

Cutting deep into the IB, GATE and arts programs will only send more people out of the district and further plummet the education of Sac City kids. These items are always the low hanging fruit in budget crisis, and always the worst and most damaging places to take away funding.

Please do not make this grave error, and instead look to other methods of cost savings from staff reduction, potential pay cuts, benefit restructuring, etc. A full plan needs consideration here before knee jerk cuts that have lasting effects on our kids, our district, and our entire community are chosen.

Thank you,

Ingrid Foster

Sent from my iPhone

12/10/2020

RE: Proposed Budget Cuts to Student Offerings

Dear Sacramento City School Board Members,

I am writing in regards to agenda item 9.3 which lists proposed cuts to Music and Arts core curriculum, Career Technical Education, and other student services. These proposed cuts will have a direct impact on thousands of students, and the district should immediately remove this as an option for mitigating budget shortfalls caused by increased costs of healthcare and other employee benefits.

As a parent of a kindergarten student in Sacramento City Schools, we stayed in the district instead of transferring to San Juan specifically because of the arts offerings and engaging learning opportunities at A.M. Winn and Carver. I am very dismayed that the district, SCTA, and the school board would even consider removing services that directly help students engage in learning before negotiating a reasonable salary and benefits package that is comparable to other districts in the state of California. This is not a student-centered philosophy, and I implore the board to look at all other options before taking away opportunities from the students of SCUSD. If the district truly adheres to the motto: "putting our students first" then these cuts will be removed from the proposal immediately.

First, the arts are a core academic subject in the state of California and should be treated as such.

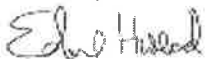
Education Code Section 51210 and 51220 states that a well rounded education includes: *Visual and performing arts, including instruction in the subjects of dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, aimed at the development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative expression for grade k-12.*

Education Code Section 51225.3 states that the arts are Included among the academic subjects required for graduation from high school. The district cannot simply remove these services without being out of compliance and should consider this in addition to the harm these cuts will directly have on student engagement, learning, and opportunity.

In regards to the proposed Career Technical Education, SCUSD has received millions of dollars of Career Technical Education Incentive grant funding that has a three year district match obligation. The 2018-19 allocation was \$1,122,221.48, and the 19-20 allocation was 1,029,530.00. I do not understand how the district will cut CTE program funds without being responsible for repaying millions of dollars in state categorical grant money since the LCAP promise is tied to these awards.

Finally, I would like to begin my closure by saying my wife has been a public educator for the last 15 years and currently works for the state. Had she moved laterally to SCUSD when we relocated from Sonoma County, she would have received a \$30,000 pay increase as well as a 20% reduction in her benefit contribution. This puts in perspective how SCUSD teachers are paid as compared to others in the state. When Covid hit, she had to take a 10% pay cut as well. It is simply unfathomable that SCTA would be willing to sacrifice the well being of students before negotiating a reasonable 3% paycut and benefit contribution that mirrors other public service employees. I have never seen a union that would sacrifice their own teachers and directly strip away resources from families and students. It is time for a compromise for the best interest of students.

Sincerely,



Mr. Ed Hubbard II, parent and community member

From: Mo Kashmiri
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:51 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Cc: Jessie Ryan; Christina Pritchett; Michael Minnick; Lisa Murawski; Leticia Garcia; Darrel Woo; Mai Vang Board; Cydskow@gmail.com; Ericajaramillo11@gmail.com
Subject: Public Comment to Item 9.3 - Fiscal Recovery Plan Adoption - Dec 10th, 2020
Attachments: Letter with 500 signatories v9 12.10.20 1145am.docx.pdf; Letter with 500 signatories v9 12.10.20 1145am.docx

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Dear SCUSD School Board Members,

Please see the attached letter signed by over 500 parents/community members regarding Board agenda item 9.3 - Fiscal Recovery Plan Adoption.

We hope you will partner with us to avoid budget cuts and help create the schools our students deserve.

--
Mo Kashmiri
Parent of a William Land 4th grader

FIGHT FOR THE SCHOOLS OUR KIDS DESERVE – CHOP FROM THE TOP

December 10th, 2020

SCUSD Board of Education Members

Jessie Ryan, President (Trustee Area 7)

Christina Pritchett, Vice President (Trustee Area 3)

Michael Minnick, 2nd Vice President (Trustee Area 4)

Lisa Murawski (Trustee Area 1)

Leticia Garcia (Trustee Area 2)

Mai Vang (Trustee Area 5)

Darrel Woo (Trustee Area 6)

Isa Sheikh, Student Member

RE: Board Agenda Item 9.3 – Fiscal Recovery Plan Update – Dec 10th, 2020

Dear SCUSD School Board,

We are over 500 parents, teachers, and community members who are coming together to create the public schools our students and community deserves, to support all students, to address racial and economic disparities, and prioritize the needs of students with disabilities.

On Thursday, Dec 10th, the SCUSD School Board shall be voting on budget cuts, including but not limited to:

- 1) Popular Waldorf schools (A.M. Winn, Alice Birney, & Washington Carver High School)
- 2) Bilingual education
- 3) Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)
- 4) After-school & Youth Development programs
- 5) Arts & Music programs
- 6) Career Technical Education
- 7) Eliminating paying for IB and AP tests
- 8) Child Development contribution
- 9) College and Career Visits

Instead, the District should focus on creating the schools our students /community deserve.

These cuts would devastate our schools. Before cutting services to our students, the District should:

- **Cut unnecessary non-classroom spending / Chop from the top**
 - o The Governor of California is the highest-paid Governor in the country at \$210,000. In March, SCUSD Superintendent Jorge Aguilar accepted a \$34,126 raise, bringing his total annual compensation to \$414,818.
 - o The District spends millions of dollars on outside attorneys. District Escape Reports show that they budgeted \$4.1 million last year for legal counsel; this year, they have budgeted \$6.2 million. Hiring in-house counsel can be far cheaper.

FIGHT FOR THE SCHOOLS OUR KIDS DESERVE – CHOP FROM THE TOP

- The District has spent more than \$2 million on an anti-union campaign against their staff, according to info requests & school board packets.

- Research and evaluate all options for revenue increases

- Advocate together with us for more State funding. California currently has a one-time \$12-26 billion windfall surplus;
- Advocate together with us for more Federal funding. The Federal Government is currently debating providing more money to schools, and
- The District should hire a third party to provide an extensive list of revenue options such as parcel taxes and countywide or city-wide revenue options (sales taxes, soda taxes, vacant property fees, transfer taxes, etc.)

- Spend down some of the \$93 million in emergency funds. This is the highest emergency fund the District has ever had, and we are in an emergency.

- The District is required to have 2% in reserve (11.5 million). SCUSD has 80 million more than necessary, which is nearly 15% in reserve.

- Provide more budget transparency

- We want a DETAILED line-by-line accounting of the District’s budget, which puts \$101.3 million in books & supplies. The District spent only 11 million in this area last year, and budgeted \$29 million in 22-23, and \$38 million in 21-22.
- We want the District to have a Budget Review Committee, and for the Board to stop waiving it.

We look forward to working with you to help create the schools our students deserve.

Sincerely,

Mo	Kashmiri		
Monica	Stark	Katie	Sypnieski
Megan	Goodin	Quin	Buhs
Tammy	Smith	Maria	Nava
Cyd	Jaghory	Mia	Iverson
Mark	Verdugo	Sonja	vanHeel
Margee	Burch	Micah	Caplan
Ashley	Simmons	Mariah	Crail
Christina	Hanes	Terry	Marks
Sam	Skow	nadia	calderon

FIGHT FOR THE SCHOOLS OUR KIDS DESERVE – CHOP FROM THE TOP

Misty	Jones	Jennifer	Herman
Danielle	Yeti	Amy	Woodhull
Kim	Church	Molly	O'Connor
Genesis	White	Alexandra	Melchor
Ahriel	Pugh	Sonia	Lewis
Elaine	Jewell	Daniel	Gannon
Jose	Tostado	Sarah	Shaver
Jennifer	Nakayama	Quinn	Naughton
Melanie	Schindell	Melissa	Murphy
Joel	Manley	Mia	Johnson
Candace	Carlson	Remi	Hall
Martin	Beal	Hank	Stump
Christy	Espino	Joan	Buhs
Sara	Goncalves	Becky	Glatz
Fernando	Ochoa	Stacy	Hayashi
Leah	Carroll	Ryan	Lee
Caroline	Prieto	Ellika	Frykman
Catherine	Charriere	Anne	Whitaker
Melissa	Tostado	Jackson	Halverson
Brandy	Black	Suzanne	Glidewell
Mackenzie	Wilson	Paula	Conriquez
Anna	Kachagin	Alberto	Rojo
Lor	Jablonski	Leslie	Lew
Richard	Wake	Aaron	Garcia
Josefa	Ortiz	Tamie	Dramer
Felicia	Carrillo	Olivia	Minor
courtnee	booker	Gabriella	Menezes

FIGHT FOR THE SCHOOLS OUR KIDS DESERVE – CHOP FROM THE TOP

Stacey	Greer	Ashley	Charity
Huong	Chong-Trinh	Noglia	Horton-Broadnax
Hannah	Orr	Cirt	Menezes
Stevie	Cook	Kyra	Mehlmauer
Stephanie	Parreira	John	Mehlmauer
Kellie	Arana	Melissa	Del Duca
steve	baker	Jennifer	Aldridge-Grant
John	Synhorst	Susan	Cham
Mary	McComas	Dean	Thompson
Edward	Hashima	Alicia	Williams
Sarah	Pulse	Valerie	Hanley
Mary	McComas	Alyson	Lunetta
Dorene	Velasquez	Maddy	flint
Lindsay	Gangler	Leslie	Stair
Marcheri	Smith	Kim	Blackford
Lynnett	Tozer	Carole	Daly
Jose	Navarro	Jackie	Fields
Ántonia	Peigahi	Ingrid	Foster
Lorri	Doll	Breanna	Myres
Gina	Barnard	Ingrid	Foster
Scarlet	Arnold	Elisa	Stone
Damian	Harmony	Diana	Khramtsov
Bryan	Parker	Fedor	Khramtsov
Nathaniel	Starace	Marian	Bryson
Katie	Hymans	Bruce	Boyer
Mary Anne	Palmer	Liz	Andarcia
Kara	Synhorst	Caleb	Jones

FIGHT FOR THE SCHOOLS OUR KIDS DESERVE – CHOP FROM THE TOP

Shannon	Loudon	Maryke	Melman
Shirley	Toy	Ana	Marinoble
Gabrielle	Dietrich	Samantha	Bruton
Dwight	Crocker	Jennifer	Branyan
Simranjit	Kaur	Prescilla	Medrano
Melissa	Quon	Katie	Ragle
Dustin	Heron	Brittany	Smith
Marco	Colucci	Krishana	Carlton
Paul	basi	Loretta	McClendon
William	Kilfoyle	Christi	Ketchum
Nailah	Pope Harden	Susan	Mar
Olivia	Carrington	Kim	Lukenbill
Erib	Duarte	Lavita	Taylor
Jordan	Kieschnick	Noelle	Walsh
Crystal	Sanchez	Josephine	Qumar
Misty	Collings	Kenya	Keola
Kayla	Russell	Anna	Tyulyu
Bryan	Fisher	Zoe	Kipping
Maria	Tait	Molly	Close
Herman	Kwong	Melanie	Knight
Kelda	Barker	Julie	Lee
christopher	voisin	Laura	Santos
Barry	Fallon	Mona	Speaks
Lenore	Devereux	Elizabeth	Ridzik
Maria	Aguilar	Veronica	Amador
Jose	Leal	Ashley	Freeman
Maria Jose	Solares-Luna	Dave	mcilnay

FIGHT FOR THE SCHOOLS OUR KIDS DESERVE – CHOP FROM THE TOP

Samantha	Archuleta	marina	conriquez
Jennifer	Hayes	Rose	Cabral
Lisa	Williams	Sandee	Bunch
Charles	Schwab	Jennifer	Wonnacott
Alexander	Bol	Mariana	Velazquez
Aimee	Thibedeau	Tamika	L'Ecluse
Tammy	Abdo	Francisco	Hernandez
Brian	McComas	Tarous	Jaghory
Mollie	Morrison	Daphna	Rahmil
Barrett	Drawdy	Rosalie	Yacoub
Inga	Templeton	Eric	Sunderland
Ben	Gravitz	Gina	Barkalow Kay
Jaime	Samuels	elijah	moore
Stacy	Saeteurn	Lincoln	Sabini
Jill	Olmstead	georgia	sarlis
Michelle	Drawdy	ivonne	paniagua
Salisa	Campos	Maureen	Paley
Jasmine	Wayne	Keith	Jensen
Alex	Borges	Terri	Sheffield
Melissa	Cooke	Rachel	Darling
Clarissa	White	Michael	Rodgers
Kira	Channell	Douglas	MacPherson
Julieanne	Lamell	Eva	Ginnell
Michelle	Madrid	Kate	Lenox
Julieanna	Nitsche	Alexander	Vang
Kim	Stowell	Milan	Williams
Karen	Hankin	Maura	Schapper

FIGHT FOR THE SCHOOLS OUR KIDS DESERVE – CHOP FROM THE TOP

Spencer	Eccles	Amy	Watson-Clancy
Allison	Lal	Katie	Valenzuela
Timothy	Douglas	Caity	Maple
Tina	Borgman	Amy	Fletcher
Kristina	Tostado	Lindsay	Weber
Michael	Johnston	Eric	Gudz
Kristin	Goetz	Bridget	Martinez
Emily	Edmond	Lori	Merritt
Krystal	Robinson	Coriring@gmail.com	Ring-Martinez
Melanie	Bean	Ashley	Simmons
Tim	Hebert	Emma	Heady
Amy	Brauch	Keith	Sheffield
Chardonnay	Kelly	Catherine	Pai-Dhungat
Michelle	Wyatt	Jennifer	Fain
Scott	Barry	Lili	Hernandez
Cary	Zierenberg	Susan	Monticello
Nicole	Fossum	Margaret	Jacobson
Joe	Fossum	Krystal	Coles
Marianna	Shaw	Lynne	Blake
Sarah	DeLucas	Claiborne	Sibley
Michelle	Ng	Hannah	Fulgham
Matthew	Fossum	Tracy	Peña
Jessica	Shevlin	Sarah	Shaver
Neue	Leung	nancy	marsh
Mary	Bennick	Kristina	Gelardi
Julie	Watkins	Melissa	Mendoza
Sara	Bailey	Aart	DeWaard

FIGHT FOR THE SCHOOLS OUR KIDS DESERVE – CHOP FROM THE TOP

Mara	Harvey	Maria	Smith
Anselmo	Marin	Evan	Tudor Elliott
Mike	Baker	Vicki	Carlson
Carolyn	Baker	Reuben	Mendoza
Cynthia	Gargovich	Victoria	Arroyo
Ana	Jenkins	Susan	Main
John	Doolittle	Carla	Dibasilio
Brittany	Martin	Margaret	Salazar
Anna	Molander	Wendy	Nordstrom
erica	jaramillo	Julia	Uribe
Caroline	Lucas	Phillip	Kim
Matthew	Fossum	Josefina	Cruz
Yolanda	padilla	Grace	Marsh-Wood
Brad	Quon	Kayle	Melicher
Kathleen	Teves	Gulalai	Shetab
Julie	Law-Marin	Kaylin	Moua
Kevin	DiLoreto	Theresa	Nguyen
Vanessa	Cudabac	Benjamin	Tran Vo
Rebecca	Dehr	Eric	Wood
Dennessa	Atiles	Patricia	Cauthen
Jennifer	Suhd brondstatter	Jennifer	Cox
Lisa	Douglas	Jody	Poquette
braden	murphy	Gurdeep	Dhaliwal
Owen	Jackman	Emily	Ingram
Kim	Carter Martinez	Felicia	Novoa
Thuy	Dao	Yasmeen	Haider
Kim	Church	Gina	Garcia-Smith

FIGHT FOR THE SCHOOLS OUR KIDS DESERVE – CHOP FROM THE TOP

Brandon	Jenkins	Cheryl	Eining
David	Mandel	Bernardo	Xicotencatl
Kelley	Ho	Karla	Calihua
Sara	Nichols	Pedro	Vargas
fatima	malik	Renae	Garcia
Sean	Clancy	Janelle	Green
Amy	Mathiesen	Tricia	Maughan
Julie	Ketchel	Karen	DeLodder
Tylen	Einweck	Kelly	Cordero
Olivia	Einweck	Kris	Allott
Angela	Einweck	Patricia	Cauthen
Mihaela	Misca	teresa	hanneman
Ramon	Torres	Nia	MooreWeathers
Jessica	Mains	Thomas	Moore
Emily	Graves	Katie	Glover
Joseph	Einweck	Hunter	Merritt
Heather	Morrow	Anna	Mestidio
Brandy	Boyd	Shannon	McSmith
Martha	Coffin	Steph	Steiner
Irene	Hashimoto	Jack	Cauthen
Maymuna Amira	Hackett	Katie	Wikler
Eric	Richards	Ellen	Coughlin
Leslie	Stair	Christine	Mellon
Melissa	Tell	Lavinia	Phillips
Jessica	Cudabac	Nimrata	Nijjar
Robert	Longer	Courtney	Kain
Cathie	Apple	Lana	Harris

FIGHT FOR THE SCHOOLS OUR KIDS DESERVE – CHOP FROM THE TOP

Kim	Schouten	Melanie	Bown
Megan	Elsa	Tami	Hackbarth
Kari	Estrada	Curtis	Cogdill
Paula	Ragle	Nichole	Scrivner
Melodie	Johnson	Hannah	Jenks
Kristie	Puente	Melody	Horrell
Flojaune	Cofer	Dana	Jenks
Jo	Southard	Wes	Ingram
Maureen	Kerner	Kelly	McGann
Cindy	Stephens	Dustin	Littrell
Stephanie	Batey	Corri	Chadwick
Elizabeth	Shoemaker	ERIK	DAHL
Julie	Tarman	Bethany	Daniels Muhlhauser
Daniel	Diaz	Sean	Clancy
Sandra	Escalera	Christina	Martinez
Mariam	Hamdani	Debra	Wilkinson
Sarah	Chase	Kimberly	Rodda
Elisabeth	Johnson	Keely	Miller
Kim	Mcilnay	Janelle	Wheeler
Cindy	Mcloughlin	Bobbi Jo	Bowland
Quin	Buhs	Lindsay	Armendariz
Andrew	La Torre	Michelle	Kizner
Ali	Doerr Westbrook	Melanie	Ota
Lacey	Kaplan-Coleman	Jen	Edith
Andrea	Miller	Tina	Bartell
Brett	Williams	Michelle	Reynolds
Nathaniel	Stephens	Jade	Cervantes
Jennifer	Gannon		

FIGHT FOR THE SCHOOLS OUR KIDS DESERVE – CHOP FROM THE TOP

Cindy	Kazee	Anniya	Young
Elizabeth	Uribe	Heather	Schaller
Alaina	Boutte	Audrey	Bettega
Barbara	Sanchez	Caleb	Sullivan
Sheryl	Jardine	Jenely	Lopez
Iris	Griffin	Melissa	Androlowicz
Bradly	Garcia	Christina	Rouse
Jeremiah	RUtledge	Elizabeth	Campbell
Evan	Blakely	claudia	cuevas
Linda	Witting	singer	soules
Bethany	Moslen	Olivia	Balzarano
Amber	Long	Jenifer	Vang
John	Downs	Marcos	Cabrera
Alicia	Ferguson	Tyler	Smith
Jaidon	Blackshire	Manuel	Buenrostro
Desiree	Doe	Janette	Tapia
Isabel	Mendoza	Sharon	Teig
nataly	barreto	Katie	Jackson
wendy	perez	Isabella	Balzarano
Elsbeth	Mar	Lorna	Mcllnay
Maria	Cudabac	Jan	Taylor
eva	hernandez	Kayla	Asada
Alice	Mercer	Ruby	Hernandez
Dr. Camille	Broussard Wise	Makenna	Schaefer
Michelle	Boucher	Mackenzie	Hotaling
Emma	Thatcher	Cole	Tyzzar
Joanne	Madams	Soni	Nageswaran

Jieyu

Huang

Kerry

Thomas

From: Valerie Hanley
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 10:01 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Fiscal Recovery Program/ December 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.

Superintendent Aguilar and School Board Members,

My name is Dr. Valerie Hanley. I currently have three children that go to school in the district with my fourth entering early kindergarten next year. I have an EK and 8th grader at Alice Birney Waldorf and a 10th grader at New Technology High School. I often state that my best parenting decision was placing my children in Alice Birney Waldorf. We are so blessed in this district to have three public Waldorf schools in Alice Birney, AM Winn, and Washington Carver High School. These are incredible magnet schools that attract families looking for alternative methods for their children. Methods that value the whole child and believe in the power of play, physical movement, and both fine and practical arts. A method that allows children to think on their own and helps develop creative, empathetic, compassionate lifetime learners. I like to joke that in the case of an apocalypse, look toward your Waldorf educated children. They can knit and sew, they know how to compost and organic garden, they can build a structure, and they can critically think and establish compassionate and loving communities. These kids are our future leaders. This creativity is what leads to progress and new scientific discovery. These are skills we should be doing everything we can to encourage and instill in our children.

New Technology High School is this small gem within our district. Again, a program that values the whole child. Not just grading on academic knowledge, but on how the students collaborate with one another, how they are able to communicate both orally and in writing, and how they carry themselves and learn from their experiences. Through project based learning, they get hands on experience. They learn how to work together for a common goal. It's an incredible program where the principal and teachers know all the kids. They truly care for them and want to see them succeed. The Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways in Design and Computer Science prepare these kids for careers in these fields and allows them the amazing opportunity to earn college credits through their high school courses. For many this is a push towards a college degree that they may not have imagined otherwise. And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that New Technology students won the California Forestry Challenge Championship in both 2018 and 2019. A remarkable achievement on a critical issue facing our State.

I look at the list of programs that are targeted for potential savings and I just can't comprehend why these things are considered disposable. These programs that foster creativity and emotional well-being in our children must continue. We must raise and educate our children to be problem solvers. Creativity is key to all ingenuity. We need to foster this and bolster these programs. I implore you to reconsider these targeted programs.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Dr. Valerie Hanley

Steve Johns

December 9, 2020

Board of Education
Sacramento City Unified School District
publiccomment@scusd.edu

Re: December 10 Board Meeting, Item 9.3 Fiscal Recovery Plan

President Ryan and Board Members,

My name is Steve Johns and I have a son who is in third grade at Caleb Greenwood Elementary School. I am opposed to the Fiscal Recovery Plan that the Board is considering at its December 10 meeting due to its short-sighted approach and damaging effects.

As you know, Caleb Greenwood is an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School offering the Primary Years Program. This successful program was established several years ago through a collaboration of the school, its families, and the community in response to Caleb's decreasing enrollment due to students attending school elsewhere. I was engaged with many of the community members and parents during these discussions, and they were eager to establish a program that would provide their families with an alternative to private school.

The IB program has been enormously successful and is recognized throughout the region. With the program in place, Caleb Greenwood's enrollment has increased from 401 students in 2013/2014 to 559 students in 2019/20. This 39% increase is significant – not only does the annual revenue from increased enrollment cover the costs associated with IB program, but it also provides additional revenue to the district.

The proposed Fiscal Recovery Plan will eliminate the IB Coordinator position Caleb Greenwood, which will prevent the school from being re-authorized as an IB World School. This will likely affect Caleb's future success. The District's ongoing structural budget deficit must be addressed with the Board and its labor partners at the table. Both non-negotiated and negotiated items must be leveraged for costs savings.

Decimating programs such as the IB World School program at Caleb won't resolve the structural budget deficit. It will, in fact, cost the District additional revenue.

I urge you to vote no on the proposed Fiscal Recovery Plan.

Sincerely,

Steve Johns

From: Patricia Wentzel
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2020 7:24 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Fiscal Recovery Plan 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 Patricia Wentzel and I'm a community member with 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.**

From: Dee Emmert
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2020 8:28 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Item 9.3, 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.

My name is Dee Emmert and I'm a community member with Sacramento ACT. I have two grown sons who had special needs in school. The school was a critical partner in their growth, and unfortunately sometimes not a partner. The difference that it made when the school system worked with them and addressed their needs was astonishing.

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.
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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.**

Blessings,
Pastor Dee Emmert

God loves you and so do I

From: Cindi Brosemer
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2020 8:56 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: LDV middle school closure

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.

Dear SCUSD Board,

I am writing out of concern for agenda item 9.3, the closure of the middle school program at Leonardo da Vinci. As a parent of two children that went to LDV from K through eighth, I can speak in-depth to the amazing program in place there. Our district should be looking at trying to bring all programs up to the level at LDV, not shutting it down.

As a parent of a current sixth grader, the idea that my child would now be forced to go to another program, after 7 years at LDV, is completely unacceptable to me.

The loss of such a program would be huge for the district as a whole. The LDV middle school program is comprehensive, and more than prepared my two older children for high school. It is entirely due to their experience at LDV that they both are thriving in their freshman year.

The impact on current and future students would be devastating.

There needs to be more community input, and there needs to be more in-depth review of ALL other potential cost-cutting options. All involved parties need to be brought to the table to see how we can avoid cuts that would have such a direct, drastic impact on students. Any cuts to programs that directly impact students should be an absolute last resort.

Thank you,
Cindi Brosemer
SCUSD Parent

From: Courtney Poole
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2020 10:31 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Comment on Item 9.3

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My name is Courtney Poole and I'm a community member with Sacramento ACT and live in Sacramento. I am also a social worker who understands the importance of mental health supports in schools.

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.**

Thank you
Courtney Poole

Sent from my iPhone

From: kris allott
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 7:44 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Save our programs

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 writing regarding the 12/10/2020 Board Meeting agenda item 9.3 and proposed budget cuts to arts, GATE, specialty, after-school, IB, and other programs. My child has mental health challenges. Cuts to specialty programs make school to academic and unengaging for her. She may drop out of high school because of the cuts. Save our programs. Cut funds from the top. Cut funds from the hiring of outside lawyers, hire in house lawyers and save millions per year. Take money from the emergency fund, This is an emergency.

Thank you,

Kris

Kris Allott

"Simplify, simplify, simplify." - Thoreau
"One 'simplify' would have sufficed." - Emerson

From: Dan Gannon
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 8:03 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Cc: Christina Pritchett; Allegra Alessandri; Jennifer Gannon
Subject: SCUSD Board Meeting 12/10, Agenda Item 9.3 Fiscal Recovery Plan

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Hello. My name is Dan Gannon and my son is in 11th grade at George Washington Carver High School. I am writing in regards to Agenda Item 9.3, Fiscal Recovery Plan, on tonight's agenda.

I am concerned about the budget cuts affecting George Washington Carver, as any reduction of teachers or funding could effectively close the school. In the three years that our son has been at Carver, it has been nothing short of miraculous because he found a school where he can feel safe and receive the dedicated attention from teachers necessary for him to prosper as a student.

He started off well at David Lubin Elementary, but the transition to the much larger Sutter Middle School was traumatic. At Sutter, he experienced tremendous stress, anxiety and depression, not just because of the intense classwork, but also because of persistent bullying. While the administration at Sutter was sympathetic and provided support, they could not undo the damage. As a parent, it's truly heartbreaking when you fear for your child's safety from others as well as from himself. From this experience, we knew that a large school setting is not a good fit for our son.

At Carver, my son found a place of peace, safety, inclusivity and prosperity as a student. The interactive curriculum expanded his worldview by focusing on environmental and social justice. It encourages expression through art in every class and involvement in community service. Overall, the Waldorf education introduced our son to a new way of learning that was in tune with his demeanor and interests, so much so that he's gone from struggling for hours every night to complete coursework with a C average at Sutter to an engaged, organized, confident A-student at Carver that's gaining college credits via Carver's ACE classes through CSUS. At Carver, he has built an excellent, trusting rapport with students and teachers and is happy there.

I fear that closing Carver, as well as any other Waldorf school such as AM Winn or Alice Birney, would hurt the community greatly because we know our son is not the only one benefitting from the Waldorf education. He's not the only one that does not function well at a larger school. It's the obligation of a public school district to ensure that our children are educated in a safe, trusting environment where they can grow and become contributing members of our society. Therefore, the district needs to maintain places like Carver for students like our son. If schools like Carver are taken away, children would be forced into settings where they may not grow -- they would be robbed of an ideal learning experience in an ideal environment. Students deserve to have these educational opportunities within the public school system.

Thank you for allowing me to share my concerns.

Dan

December 9, 2020

Sacramento City Unified School District
5735 47th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95824

Sent via email: publiccomment@scusd.edu

Re: Reject the Fiscal Recovery Plan (Agenda Item 9.3)

Dear Sacramento Unified School Board:

We urge you to reject the proposed Fiscal Recovery Plan under consideration at your December 10, 2020 Board Meeting. We are deeply concerned about the potential loss of funding for Caleb Greenwood's International Baccalaureate program and schools across the Sacramento Unified School District. We have two sons at Caleb Greenwood, in 1st and 4th grade, and are extremely happy with, and proud of, the program. The curriculum has a profound impact on the school; we see it in Principal Hanson, in the teachers, and most importantly, in the students.

We cannot put a price tag on the value of the questions our sons ask us that obviously come from the influence of the school. We can, however, say that we live in the neighborhood in large part because of the school. We know that enrollment is way up because of Caleb's program, and we know that everyone we have met associated with the school takes pride in its success. As we understand it, based on the enrollment formula, and the response Caleb Greenwood has received since adopting the IB program, the program more than pays for itself.

Our family deeply believes in public education, and sincerely wants our kids to continue in public education through high school, in Sacramento. With that in mind, we have great hopes for Kit Carson given its IB program. If the district eliminates funding, we may decide to move out of the district to ensure our kids receive the solid public education they deserve.

In short, Sacramento Unified has a gem in Caleb Greenwood, and we imagine other schools with similar programs bring similar benefits. We know the teachers at Caleb are deeply invested in the IB way of teaching, and it shows, not just with our kids, but with all the others we have met.

When people ask us about sending our kids to school in Sacramento Unified, our candid answer is "the school district is a bit of a mess, but that we absolutely love Caleb Greenwood". Maintaining investment in the IB program, and similar programs throughout the district, will get our family to a place where our candid answer is that "we love the school district." That feeling has an impact, family to family, neighborhood to neighborhood.

Love for the district means our kids stay in the district, funding comes to the district, and we create the same positive feedback loop that Caleb Greenwood has created since adopting the IB program.

Please find a way to protect the great programs that have developed in the district. Pulling away is a recipe for a public school death spiral - where families with the means simply put their kids into private school, minimizing public school funding, which hurts the families who need public schools to be strong to give their children the opportunities they deserve.

All of our kids deserve the best. And when we have programs that deliver the best, while effectively paying for themselves, cutting them is crazy. We implore you to take responsibility for providing an education that meets the needs of ALL students and families in the Sacramento Unified School District. Not just our sons, or their schoolmates at Caleb, but students throughout the District, particularly those who rely on support programs, services and specialized teachers to meet their educational needs and students in communities that are under-resourced.

The Fiscal Recovery Plan, as currently written, will have significant and long-lasting impacts on the students, families and communities within the Sacramento Unified School District. **Please reject the Fiscal Recovery Plan and continue negotiating with the Sacramento City Teachers Association to create a budget that puts the education of our children FIRST and sets the District on a path to sustained fiscal solvency.**

Sincerely,

Tyson and Jenn Eckerle
Parents of two Caleb Greenwood students, 1st and 4th grade

From: Janelle Green
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 8:44 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Opposition to 12/10/20 Agenda Item to Cut IB and Other Student Programs

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.

Dear SCUSD:

I am a parent of a first grader at Caleb Greenwood Elementary School. I am writing about the Fiscal Recovery Plan and proposed cuts to IB, GATE, the arts, and other programs that are on the 12/10/20 Board Meeting agenda.

I have kept my son in SCUSD expressly because of the IB program at Caleb Greenwood. The IB global focus has fostered an understanding of his place in the world as a global citizen, spurring an interest in other languages and cultures. The IB student attributes, such as being principled, open-minded, a critical thinker, and a risk-taker, have instilled a growth-mindset in my son, making him more receptive to new and challenging subjects and not afraid to ask questions to expand his knowledge.

Because of the IB program, our site generates enough revenue in a single year to cover our program expenses and generate additional revenue for the District. It is appalling and shameful that the District would consider to cut IB and other critical student programs when it spends millions on attorney fees and pays its director a salary of over \$400,000. Cutting student programs that expand academic options and generate revenue is not the answer, especially in a District where many students are economically disadvantaged.

I suggest that the District examine the fiscal options provided by parent, teacher, and community members [here](#).

Sincerely,
Janelle Green

From: Gulalai Shetab >
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:05 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: From: Yolanda Padilla, Yumiko trimingham, Gulalai Shetab

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 the superintendent and board members, involved in this decision making,

It is known that the chance for a child to attend a high-quality preschool- which research has shown sets them on a more successful life path- often depends on whether the parents can afford it. According to your data, the contribution to the child development program is \$564,000, but you want to dismiss this program, using the scapegoat that the state might take over. Yet despite this, you have given much more than \$564,000 to lawyers and other supporters of your group. Your supposed ethos does not add up. You say one thing, like equity for all students, and yet you do another by cutting programs that help students. You gave most 1000 students slots to the SETA. SETA is not a very high quality program, because a high school graduate deals with children who needs support. Ones upon a time SCUSD had school psychologists helping and get the family and children on track for success. However, in 2018, when you tried to cover up for your wrongdoing of giving away child development slots to SETA and San Juan, it all came to light. You said the state will take SCUSD and it did not, in fact, SCUSD ended up with surplus.

You, Mr. Superintendent, avoid talking with teachers and the teachers union. You know that 50% of conversing is listening to your critics. You tried to deny what they had to say until the judge decreed that you were wrong. Please learn from your past mistakes and be honest with yourself because 99% of the teachers, nurses, social workers, etc. do not trust you or anyone who approves of your actions. You know Jessie Rayan lost because she kept covering up the real issues and we are happy that she was not elected. Mr. Superintendent, please learn to be fair.

From: Charles Taylor
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 6:54 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Prioritize Mental Health

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 Allegra Taylor, I am a community leader with Sacramento ACT & Co-Founder of The Village Advocates of Sacramento.

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 Black Students, English learners, low income students, and students with disabilities that will be impacted by those cuts:** It has been made very clear that some proposed funding cuts target programs that meet the needs of numerous students -- low-income, Black Students English learners, foster/homeless youth, and youth with disabilities.
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. Ray Lazada should not be terminated. Ray represents both the Black and Brown community, his experience with youth and connections to our community are valuable & irreplaceable. To cut Mr. Lavada's job would be a major blow to our community and representation in your district. **SAVE HIS JOB!** SCUSD and the community 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. With the increase in gun violence in the black and brown community we need these funds more than ever.
4. **It is our position as a collective body Sac Act & The Village Advocates that we speak in one voice on behalf of the highest-risk students and parents served by specific programs that will be harmed or terminated by these cuts. We are their voices and we are bringing their concerns as well as ours to this board to be heard and considered. Cut your salaries not the services for our youth and families.**

From: Dustin Heron
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2020 1:41 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: School 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.

There should be no cuts to schools especially during a global crisis and while administrators are making \$400k and giving themselves raises.

Dustin Heron

From: Suzanne Gonzales
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2020 8:17 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Public comment regarding Child Development for Board Meeting 12/10/2020

Members of the Board:

I write to you today to admonish you to think heavily on the issue of destroying the Child Development Department as we know it at Sacramento City Unified School District. This department serves high risk children, children of color, English Language learners, children with differing needs, low income, and a large number of foster children.

Having taught in the district for 20+ years I know how important it is for children to get a head start on learning when they fall into the categories mentioned above. You know it too. You started a committee, The African American Advisory Board in 2019 to address the "urgent work necessary to support our African American students in reaching their full potential". Did you know that a large percentage of our preschool students are those very African American students needing the urgent attention you wish to address? Did you also know research has shown that children, particularly those of color, are given that positive attention by starting in quality preschool programs like those currently being offered here at SCUSD? Research has also proven children who attend preschool, quality preschool like we have at SCUSD, stay in school longer, graduate high school more often, attend college more frequently, and stay out of prisons longer than their counterparts that do not attend preschool? If you can answer yes to any of the above questions, then I would like to ask you one more. Why would you vote to dismantle the quality programs we offer here at Sac City? Why, when you know of the benefits we offer children of color a leg up, would you want to take a step backward and take away so much of what they need to start elementary school ready to learn and function at grade level.

Our new president-elect is in favor of preschools. He has promised to look at universal preschool. Why, in the face of such promise, would you decide that the budget must be balanced on the backs of the youngest, most challenged, and most needy of our students? It will cost the district in the long run. More low income-children will enter kindergarten unprepared to learn. More children of color will drop out of school. More English language learning children will not graduate and sadly more of these high-risk children will end up in prison. Isn't it a goal of the district to graduate students who are ready to compete in the global marketplace? Do you really want that to be your legacy? So, once again, I ask you to think long and hard about taking any more from the department that gives children a positive start to becoming lifelong learners. Invest in the future of our children. Keep the Child Development program intact and allow as many children as possible in SCUSD to thrive. Make this your legacy instead.

Thank you
Suzanne Gonzales, MEd
Teacher Sacramento City Unified School District

From: Jack Mitchell
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:01 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item 9.3

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.

Dear Superintendent and members of the School Board. My name is Jack Mitchell and I am an independent education consultant with AME Consulting, LLC. Prior to June 30, 2020 I spent 13 years as the CTE Arts, Media, and Entertainment Consultant and the Secondary Visual and Performing Arts Consultant at the California Department of Education.

I am writing to comment on the Agenda item 9.3 Fiscal Recovery Plan Update and specifically about two critical concern that appear under the heading of "Summary of Budget Reduction Options" in the table provided there are a number of programs listed with the potential cost saving identified for each. The table also identifies two curricular content areas VAPA/Music Teacher and Career Technical Education listed.

(B) Other Programs Potential Cost Savings

VAPA/Music Teachers	837,000
Career Technical Education	925,000

I would like to begin by pointing out that unlike the other items listed in the table for potential savings these are not support services but academic content areas. Including these items in the list is no different than including science instruction, foreign language instruction, or even mathematics or language arts. Visual performing arts and Music education are not services like GATE, Safe School or Teacher Induction. They are academic content areas that are an essential component of a well-rounded education under the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act. The districts CTE courses provide essential Career Readiness skills for over 2,00 district students and impact State Career Readiness dashboard outcomes

I urge you to remove these two curricular content areas from this list of potential reductions and continue to provide Sac City students with a well-rounded education that meets both state and Federal guidelines

Jack Mitchell

AME Consulting

From: Kylinn Merriman
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:01 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: December 10 agenda item 9.3

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.

This letter is to voice my concerns about the impact of the SCUSD Fiscal Recovery Plan on the Leonardo Da Vinci Middle school program. For the past 31 years Leonardo Da Vinci school has been a shining star within SCUSD. It utilizes thousands of hours of parent support to help supplement the shoe string budget and provide excellent education to all students that are fortunate enough to make it off the waiting lists and into the program. LDV is what drew my family to the Sacramento area. As a speech language pathologist for the past 22 years I have seen many school programs throughout the states of California and Oregon, but none that have the robust field trips, science, art, music, and community building within a k-8 program that LDV has. The current Fiscal Recovery Plan as written would effectively shut down the middle school program at LDV which is a fiscally sound program. These students would be forced to go to other middle schools which are less able to address their needs with as much fiscal responsibility as LDV is able to. Please vote to reject the current fiscal recovery plan and reconsider other options. I plan to submit suggestions for other cuts that can be made in my next comment.

From: Andrea Hightower
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:58 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment for Proposed Music Program Funding 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.

As parents, we fought the SCUSD board against music department cuts in 2019. Here we are again in 2020. And I fear this battle will continue long after our children have left the public school system. This is highly unfortunate.

Seriously? While the superintendent continues to earn a 6-figure salary, and is paid more than the governor of California, why is cutting the arts what the board defaults to?

The arts keep students engaged in school! This is a scientific fact that my two-minute allotment of time does not allow me to explain further. Google it.

We can all agree that 2020 has been a dumpster fire year full of disappointment for our children (and the rest of us). Why in the world would you try to build on that disappointment by removing middle school music programs?

If your intentions are to reduce student engagement, lower overall test scores, and drive hardworking families to neighboring districts (or to charter schools and/or homeschooling) - then, BY ALL MEANS continue with this plan to systematically remove art programs in the SCUSD.

However, if your desire is to improve our children's overall education and well-being, I implore you to vote no on this foolish endeavor.

Sincerely,
An parent exhausted by this continual argument,
Andrea Hightower

Andrea Hightower

"Love is a promise, not an emotion."

From: Martha Chavez
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:54 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Cc: Martha Chavez
Subject: School Budget proposed cuts - LDV School

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.

Dear Jessie Ryan or Mai Vang

My name is Martha Chavez and I am a parent at Leonardo da Vinci. I am writing to express my concerns with item 9.3 that you are taking action on this Thursday. The document lays out budget cuts that are detrimental to the students of Sacramento City Unified.

My first request to delay action on this item. I request this for a few reasons. First, these cuts have a profound impact on the student experience and as a parent, I do not feel as though I was able to give enough input on how these decisions will shape the outcome of my child's education. Given the proposed cuts, there was not enough time for our community to weigh in.

My second request is that these cuts are reevaluated. In looking at the impact statements, there are far too many programs/roles that may be eliminated at the detriment to students of SCUSD. I understand that we are in a dire situation financially AND I do not believe that these cuts are the right ones to be making.

I strongly oppose the elimination of the middle school at LdV. This middle school matters to me because they have the best teachers and curriculum. The teachers really care about the kids and the school has prepared my daughter for high school and the real world. The kids get more attention and get to know their teachers because it is not a huge school. Also, the parent participation also contributes to this. It also doesn't make sense for you to cut the middle school because:

1. The middle school at LdV pays for itself and then some. According to ADA data, from 2016-2019, LdV had the lowest rate of chronic absenteeism compared with other SCUSD middle schools. For example, in 2018-19, LDV's chronic absenteeism rate was 4.5% while rates at two nearby middle schools were 17.15% at Cal and 16.1% at Sam Brannan. It does not make sense to eliminate a program that is financially sound.
2. There is an abundance of data that suggests that smaller middle schools are better for students than larger middle school environments.
3. In comparison, LdV middle school has stronger data across all dimensions (according to the CA Dashboard).
4. LdV could be a proof point for our district and it could support broader learning that would be better for our district over all.
5. Middle school is a really hard time for kids. Keeping them in an environment they know and with people they know can be really stabilizing for some students.

LdV is a special community. All the parents know each other, the teacher's go out of their way for the kids and are the best! Especially during the times with this pandemic. They have really been there for their students. What is being suggested for the budget doesn't make sense. Where are these kids going to go? You will end up crowding the other middle schools and then they will need more teachers.

I urge you to work with your fellow trustees to come alongside the district to find better ways to save money. This moment in time requires us to be creative and lead in ways that feel new and different. I urge you to use

your leadership for good and to make sure that the students of SCUSD are better protected from the financial crisis that faces us.

Best,

Martha Chavez

From: Mai Vue <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:41 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: IB Waiver Fee at Luther Burbank High School

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.

Good evening Board Members. My name is Mai Vue and I'm a parent of SCUSD. My daughter is currently attending Luther Burbank and taking IB classes. This is her sophomore year. I live in the EGUSD but transferred my daughter to Luther Burbank because of the IB Program and Hmong Language Classes. These are the reasons that makes Luther Burbank unique and attracts parents to like myself to transfer their children into your school district. Higher enrollment equals higher income for your district. By cutting the waiver fee from the IB Program at Luther Burbank you are not supporting your students who are academically strong and have excellent social and emotional characteristics. These students are students who makes your test scores stand out, makes colleges look at your district, increase your higher education percentage, and so forth. So when you are voting for whether to cut the waiver fee or not, I hope you decide not to cut waiver fee. You need to support students who are doing well academically. Thank you.

From: Cyd Skow
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:40 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: 12/10/20 SCUSD Board Meeting Agenda Item 9.3

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.

This email is in reference to agenda item 9.3 for today's SCUSD Board Meeting on December 10th, 2020.

SCUSD's decision to move forward with cuts to vital school programs is worse than wrong-headed: quite simply, it's cruel. This year, our students have faced a near perfect storm of trauma: from pandemic, to riots, to lost jobs, to catastrophic fires. Added to this, they've watched the district's and union's mutual grievances play out like a bad divorce in the most embarrassingly public fashion, messy and toxic. They have done it with all but no notice, few resources, and in isolation.

Lately, we're hearing more and more stories of children experiencing depression, anxiety, developmental regressions, and, tragically, taking their own lives. The message is loud and clear: now, more than ever, our children need stability. They need to feel safe. Please do not add to families' anxieties by ripping away (or even *debating* removing) the teachers and schools that may be their only lifeline right now. Allow the new board trustees to come into position. Look to the state and federal changes that are coming in the very near-term. Begin to look into better solutions for generating funds for school programs and to fix the district's structural deficit. These are the next steps, not gutting our schools three weeks before the end of the year.

As a final note: please better use our resources. You have a dedicated community of teachers and administrators who are aching to contribute to healthy, meaningful change. We will solve none of our current problems, nor capitalize on our boundless opportunities, without first reckoning with this district's broken, toxic culture. As stewards of this community, we need YOU to lead this. You cannot lead from behind; you must be the change before demanding it from others. Unify our community members, and move forward as a cohesive, inclusive, transparent front dedicated to furthering our shared interest (students). Remember, we don't have to be friends to be good neighbors.

Respectfully,
Cyd Jaghory

From: Tina Bartel
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:10 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: 12/10/2020 Board Meeting agenda item 9.3

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.

The proposed budget cuts to arts, GATE, specialty, after-school, IB, and other programs are cuts to our children's and our future. They are the future. They need us more than ever to support their educational abilities, not cut them.

Cut the big ticket items including admin salaries, lawyer budget (really, the lawyers are getting most of our children's educational monies?) Use the emergency funds (we are in a pandemic). Use whatever upper cuts necessary to ensure our children, ALL children, have access to an exceptional education.

Stop the cycle here and make cuts to more appropriate budget items. Your future is in their hands, make a difference NOW. Use your power for GOOD.

Thank you,
Tina Bartell
SCUSCD parent and the recipient of a fantastic education helping my community every day

[Submit another response](#)

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: Erin Jones
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:09 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Middle school Music Programs

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.

Hello my name is Erin Jones. I am writing to help keep music programs in middle school in Sacramento City USD. I am the parent of 3 young men. My oldest began his music training in 7th grade at Albert Einstein Middle School. He is now a member of one of the top ranking wind ensembles on the west coast at the University of the Pacific. He was able to take his middle and high school training and parlay that into almost a full ride scholarship to attend a University to obtain a degree. A university that I would never be able to afford to send him to.

My younger children want to follow in his footsteps, but with the music programs in jeopardy, this may not happen. Please reconsider removing these programs.

--

Erin Jones
erin.t.jones@gmail.com

Subject Line: Concerns with Item 9.3- Fiscal Recovery Plan Adoption

Dear Board Member,

My name is Ariana Hunt and I am a parent at Leonardo da Vinci. I am writing to express my concerns with item 9.3 that you are taking action on this Thursday. The document lays out budget cuts that are detrimental to the students of Sacramento City Unified.

My first request to delay action on this item. I request this for a few reasons. First, these cuts have a profound impact on the student experience and as a parent, I do not feel as though I was able to give enough input on how these decisions will shape the outcome of [my child's education/my loved one's education/my education]. Given the proposed cuts, there was not enough time for our community to weigh in.

My second request is that these cuts are reevaluated. In looking at the impact statements, there are far too many programs/roles that may be eliminated at the detriment to students of SCUSD. I understand that we are in a dire situation financially AND I do not believe that these cuts are the right ones to be making.

I strongly oppose the elimination of the middle school at LdV. My daughter is currently in 4th grade and we are expecting her to attend LDV through 8th grade. It would greatly upset my daughter's current academic progression if she wasn't able to attend 7th and 8th grade here at LDV. We specifically chose this school because our daughter is very artistic, musical and excels in science. If you cut the music program and the 7th and 8th grade program, there will not be a place where kids like my daughter have to thrive. It also doesn't make sense for you to cut the middle school because:

1. The middle school at LdV pays for itself and then some. According to ADA data, from 2016-2019, LdV had the lowest rate of chronic absenteeism compared with other SCUSD middle schools. For example, in 2018-19, LDV's chronic absenteeism rate was 4.5% while rates at two nearby middle schools were 17.15% at Cal and 16.1% at Sam Brannan. It does not make sense to eliminate a program that is financially sound.
2. There is an abundance of data that suggests that smaller middle schools are better for students than larger middle school environments.
3. In comparison, LdV middle school has stronger data across all dimensions (according to the CA Dashboard).
4. LdV could be a proof point for our district and it could support broader learning that would be better for our district over all.
5. Middle school is a really hard time for kids. Keeping them in an environment they know and with people they know can be really stabilizing for some students.

LdV is a special community that has nurtured its students to be compassionate, considerate, creative. My daughter feels at home here and we don't want to see that go away.

I urge you to work with your fellow trustees to come alongside the district to find better ways to save money. This moment in time requires us to be creative and lead in ways that feel new and different. I urge you to use your leadership for good and to make sure that the students of SCUSD are better protected from the financial crisis that faces us.

Best,

[Name]

From: Robin Wilmer
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:08 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Item 9.3 - 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.

Public Comment concerning Item 9.3 – Fiscal Recovery Plan

My name is Robin Wilmer and I am writing to strongly urge you to vote NO on the matter concerning the budget cutting of the VAPA/Music Teachers, with the loss of 4.8 FTE and the potential cost savings of ONLY \$837,000.

I taught my entire 38-year career in SCUSD, teaching music to students in grades 2-12. In prior years, when music cuts were proposed, I spoke before the board. I and other teachers were told we were just trying to save our jobs, with seemingly little regard for the impact our programs made on our students. Many people rightly recognize the cross-subject benefits of music, teamwork, problem-solving, task-switching, and critical thinking among others.

While all of that is true, I am instead focusing on how music specifically benefitted one young man.

Over just the past week, I received a message via social media from a former student who reached out to me. His name is Donald Evans, a bi-racial young man (African-American and Asian), and he's given me permission to use his name and words to convey the impact music, and music teachers, have in the lives of him and students far beyond the classroom.

Below are three exchanges we've engaged in the past few days. His reference to the district dismantling music was in 1992. His story in his own words ...

“Hi Mrs. Wilmer,

You may not remember me but you have been on my mind a lot lately. You taught me from the 4th grade at Sequoia through Jr. High at Einstein. Life has been a roller coaster in which I have made my fair share of mistakes and many triumphs. The older I get, the more I appreciate your patience, passion and compassion for me and other students. No other teacher had an impact in the way you did for me. I made friendships in band that last to this day.

While in high school, I visited you at Einstein to find that the district was working to dismantle the music program piece by piece. I can't imagine a world where people like you are not able to teach children about the joy of music. Music stayed with me through college, in band and marching band. All of my best memories stem from music and you particularly. I will always be grateful for the impact you made by taking the time to connect with a spoiled brat like me. Apologies for all the bad behavior. No excuse, but my family life was a mess, and I acted out a lot in school. I was actually most behaved in your class out of respect, but I was still wild. Anyway, I wish you all the best. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

I asked him about his life, and the music theme circles back around and continues ...

“So great to hear from you! After graduating Jr. High, I went to McClatchy and played in the band and marching band. I loved it so much that I continued into college in the marching band. I did not play after college when things in my life took a turn for the worse, but not prolonged. Drugs and alcohol and a bad set of friends

made for a bad couple years. It was a long life lesson and hasn't been repeated. I moved to Thailand on a whim in my early 20s and bought a nightclub! It was a fun time and I learned how to DJ. Even though I was the owner, I ended up DJing for many years at my club and then at other venues. I was never famous, but I enjoyed it immensely. I started learning about making music and shifted my focus to producing. The skills I learned from you and others after you helped me with making arrangements with more depth and variety. I mainly like to create dance music, but many of my inspirations come from classical sounds. Music is not my day job by any means, but it is still the thing that brings me the most joy. One of the songs I listen to often is The Water is Wide. A beautiful song I learned from you over 30 years ago and it still moves me. I am living in Las Vegas and my parents recently moved here to be close to me. I married a man I met in Sacramento who encourages me to pursue my passion of music and arts in general. Life is good. It has been a struggle at times and it has been a wild ride. I am thankful for many things including you! Happy holidays Ms. Wilmer. I hope you have joy in your life because you deserve it."

I lastly asked him if I could quote him in this email. He understands and eloquently explains the intrinsic value of music programs ...

"You are welcome to use my words. You are free to use my name as well. I championed for the music program back then and will continue if there is anything I can do. Let me know if there is more that can be done. Thanks for sharing this bad news. A long time ago I was able to have a one on one with Bill Camp when he was running for school board long before he rose in the ranks. He tried in vain to explain to me how they had tough decisions to make and not everything could be funded. Now we both understand economics so I won't bore you, but it was not easy to quantify the benefits of a music program.

To me it is like preventative healthcare. Healthier students perform better on tests, miss less school the government gives more money. So to me I see a financial benefit. Unfortunately, so many people can't see the big picture. To this day, I remain friends with a few of my Jr. High classmates and we are all better off for it. We all had bad influences around us in school and music was a grounding activity that taught is about teamwork, community and harmony. If music saves 10 students from dropping out, that's worth \$75,000 in a year. I don't know the salary for a music teacher these days but I am sure this is a meaningful impact. Children need something to look forward to and all the better if it is an enriching and rewarding experience.

Don't give up the fight! Hopefully someone will listen to reason. I will now step off my soap box."

Donald is only one of the thousands of students I taught over my career. I am only one of the many teachers who have taught music in the Sacramento City Schools. How many more Donald Evans are out there? How many Donald Evans are currently in SCUSD classrooms?

Thank you for reading Donald's story and I look forward to hearing from you with your decision in this all-important matter in the lives of our children.

Sincerely,

Robin L. Wilmer, M.A.
Retired Music Teacher - SCUSD

From: Dawniell Black
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:59 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment # 9.3 Fiscal Recovery Plan

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Good morning,

My name is Dawniell Black and I am a resident within the boundaries of Sacramento City Unified School District. My K-12 schooling took place in SCUSD and my child was enrolled K-2 in SCUSD. Unfortunately, I had to take him out of the district after a series of negative experiences at the school he attended I took advantage of my employment in another district to place him there.

However, it has been my intention to return him back to SCUSD for MS/HS which would begin in the Fall of 2021, but the proposed cuts to programs have given me pause. Nearly every cut proposed directly impacts students and that is unacceptable. One of the things that set SCUSD apart is the opportunity for students and families to have a wider variety of choices for the school experience of their students. Cutting the Waldorf programs, GATE, bilingual education, after-school and youth development, arts & music, and CTE? What is left? There is no reason for me to send my child back to SCUSD if there is nothing to support his development or enrichment beyond just classroom instruction. Additionally, in my professional capacity, I have had the opportunity to work with phenomenal teachers who work at the Waldorf schools, specifically Stevie Cook and with the amazing Christina Prarie-Chicken Narvaez in Youth development, and the thought the programs they work for are facing cuts or elimination is incredibly distressing.

I realize that I am only one parent and one voice but I know that I am not alone in my concerns and disappointment in the direction that SCUSD is headed with these proposed cuts.

From: Patrick Neff
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:39 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment Regarding Cuts To Music Education

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SCUSD Leadership,

I submit this comment as the former music director at Rosemont High School and the President-Elect of California Music Educators Association, Capitol Section.

I am deeply saddened that the board is once again considering cuts to music education in the district. SCUSD was once a flagship district for music in the state, but previous cuts, which my predecessor at Rosemont would describe as the "Draconian cuts of 1992," have already hindered the district's ability to provide the comprehensive and equitable music education that students deserve. The district should instead be creating opportunities for music programs at the elementary level, and cuts to any current music offerings reflect leadership that does not value arts education.

My peers who have reached out to you have received responses concerning healthcare costs for district employees. As a former employee of the district, I know this has always been a contentious topic. But it seems that at best the SCUSD music programs are being used as pawns in an effort to exert pressure elsewhere, and at worst are a very minor cost savings measure that will have negative consequences for generations of students.

You heard the voices of students, parents, and teachers in April 2019 and cannot ignore the value that music education provides in SCUSD. If we were not in a global pandemic, the Serna Center would be flooded by voices in protest.

Music education in SCUSD is a bright spot that shines despite obstacles that have been present for decades. I am incredibly proud of the program I built at Rosemont, but moved on in part because I feared encountering this issue again. It is exhausting and unfair for everyone involved.

Please protect music education in SCUSD, and never consider this again. Thank you.

Patrick Neff

--
Patrick Neff
Director of Bands
West Park High School

To whom it may concern,

12/10/2020

My name is Angela Marley and I am an employee and parent at Leonardo da Vinci school. I am writing to express my concerns with item 9.3 that you are taking action on this Thursday. The document lays out budget cuts that are detrimental to the students of Sacramento City Unified.

My first request is to delay action on this item. I request this for a few reasons. First, these cuts have a profound impact on the student experience and as a parent I do not feel as though I was able to give enough input on how these decisions will shape the outcome of my child's education. Given the proposed cuts, there was not enough time for our community to weigh in.

My second request is that these cuts are reevaluated. In looking at the impact statements, there are far too many programs/roles that may be eliminated at the detriment to students of SCUSD. I understand that we are in a dire situation financially AND I do not believe that these cuts are the right ones to be making.

I strongly oppose the elimination of the middle school at LDV because our goal for picking a K-8 school was to have our children transition only once in high school. Studies have shown that transitioning to a middle school can have a negative impact on a child psychologically and socially. For the psychosocial health of our children it was important that they have a school that went to 8th grade. To have the trajectory of our children's life disrupted with the possible change in stability in middle school disrupts my children's social emotional development. LDV's middle school also offers a rigorous academic program that would possibly enhance our children's future goals with selective high school choices and positive outcomes for college attendance. In addition, it also doesn't make sense for you to cut the middle school because

1. The middle school at LDV pays for itself and then some. According to ADA data, from 2016-2019, LDV had the lowest rate of chronic absenteeism compared with other SCUSD middle schools. For example, in 2018-19, LDV's chronic absenteeism rate was 4.5% while rates at two nearby middle schools were 17.15% at Cal and 16.1% at Sam Brannan. It does not make sense to eliminate a program that is financially sound.
2. There is an abundance of data that suggests that smaller middle schools are better for students than larger middle school environments.
3. In comparison, LDV middle school has stronger data across all dimensions (according to the CA Dashboard).
4. LDV could be a proof point for our district and it could support broader learning that would be better for our district over all.
5. Middle school is a really hard time for kids. Keeping them in an environment they know and with people they know can be really stabilizing for some students.

LDV is a special community that I and my family have been a part of since 2011. I have 3 children, 2 at LDV, and 1 whom just graduated from middle school last year. They have had the best experience at LDV educationally, socially, and emotionally. The middle school in particular gave my older son a positive middle school experience and he was able to navigate his first year in high school with success academically due to LDV preparation in middle school. My second child is now attending LDV's middle school in all GATE classes and is exceling academically

and emotionally. This is an important part of what makes LDV's middle school so important. During our current time and a global pandemic my child is able to have a positive experience at LDV because the middle school program is engaging and supportive for all the children and teachers know each child specifically and their academic needs individually. This is a school where the teachers know each child by name and not just a seat taken in a classroom. They are a community and family for the two years that our children attend LDV's middle school. This makes LDV one of the best schools and programs in our city.

I urge you to work with your fellow trustees to come alongside the district to find better ways to save money. This moment in time requires us to be creative and lead in ways that feel new and different. I urge you to use your leadership for good and to make sure that the students of SCUSD are better protected from the financial crisis that faces us.

Best,
Angela Marley

From: CA Conway
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:19 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Cc: Allegra Alessandri
Subject: Item 8.0 , General Public Comment or Item 9.3, Fiscal Recovery Plan Adoption

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SCUSD Board Members,

My name is Cathy Diepenbrock. I am a parent of a current 10th grader at George Washington Carver high school. Additionally, our middle child, who has learning challenges, attended GWCHS.

Carver High School is a welcome learning environment that supports a diverse student body - those with IEPs, students on the Autistic Spectrum, LGBTQ+ students, and students from all cultural backgrounds. The teachers and staff are committed to inclusivity, a safe environment, multiple learning modalities, an integrated curriculum including the arts, social justice curriculum and high achievement metrics.

With children with two very different sets of needs, Carver HS met them both.

With a significant out of district enrollment, it is clear that GWCHS is a regional magnet high school that provides a quality education in a safe, inclusive environment.

I urge you to continue funding GWCHS as it is a unique magnet school serving students for whom a large high school would not be a good fit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,
Cathy Diepenbrock

From: Susan Main
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2020 8:41 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: SCUSD Board Meeting 12/10/20

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Hello,

I have 3 children that attend George Washington Carver High School. Last year my eldest daughter transferred as a Junior from CKM. While at CKM she experienced panic attacks, had difficulty sleeping, and was not able to thrive. We looked into options within the Sac City Unified School District and decided Carver provided a wonderful alternative. She is now a Senior and has had an amazing experience at Carver. She feels safe, supported, encouraged, and her confidence has grown. While at Carver she has taken ACE classes and attended Jr. College. By the time she graduates from Carver she will have 1 year of college completed. Carver also has an amazing broadcast journalism program that other Sacramento public high schools don't have. It saddens me to think that my other 2 children may not be able to finish their high school education at Carver. Carver is a one of a kind gem and should be promoted not cut.

Thank you,
Susan Main, SCUSD Parent and Sacramento resident

From: Becky Blank
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 6:55 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Please don't cut our schools

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George Washington Carver is the only high school I want my children attending. Waldorf education is rich and beautiful and has blessed my children and our family for years. Please don't cut funding to our schools.

From: Joseph Shields
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:24 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Joseph Shields (Carver Personal statement 12th grade)

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Personal Statement

Hi, My name is Joseph Shields and I am commuting outside Carver district. I am from El Dorado County, so around a 25 min drive to George Washington Carver. I began attending Carver my senior year of high school. Many people ask why I wouldn't just attend my local high school. When Carver has so much to offer it is a no brainer. What attracted me so much was the warm welcoming environment. Every student is very respectful to their teachers and peers. Carver also sets a very high standard for students. With a small school, it allows the students to ask more questions and learn more. Classes also flow extremely well. The lower the students the more one on one time the student can have with the teacher. This overall leads to the student's success in their high school years. In all, George Washington Carver is a great choice for your child to attend.

12/10/2020

Dear Board Meembers

The 11/19/20 School Board meeting only devoted 26 seconds to discussing the closure of several schools and programs. A hasty decision at this critical time is irresponsible. The Board failed to allow time to review and discuss the details and instead inappropriately devoted time to hear about preserved programs, which is completely irrelevant to the issue at hand. We need strong and insightful leadership now more than ever, and we have confidence the Board members can dig in to fulfill their duty to really analyze all the data before making any cuts.

Superintendent Aguilar advocated for the Special Programs during the 11/19 meeting calling them "critical, critical services to our students."

George Washington Carver High School is one of those critical resources that needs to be preserved.

- It provides an appropriate education for students that can't function or would not be safe at a large public highschool and in the process, **it draws 40% of it's student body from outside the district, bringing in ADA that SCUSD would otherwise miss out on** if Carver is cut.
- Our son has mental health and safety concerns; he struggles immensely in traditional/comprehensive school settings, but he is thriving at Carver and getting college credit while still in highschool. He is making a contribution instead of drawing resources.

I implore the Board to exercise due diligence in making the difficult decisions ahead. This includes preserving George Washing Carver, the first public Waldorf high school in the nation, an achievement SCUSD can be proud of.

Sincerely,

Amy Watson Clancy and Sean Joseph Clancy

From: S Clancy
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:28 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Please don't Close Carver -- Letter attached

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From our son:

Dear SCUSD:

I am a student that goes to George Washington Carver. This school has many classes and extra courses that other schools don't have. Shutting down Carver would not only affect the teachers but also the students. As a student I like Carver because it is small. The teachers help me a lot when I need help and it is really good for me. Also it has an amazing art program with an amazing teacher. I would not be able to do that art program at a normal school. Please read this and keep it in consideration of keeping the school up and running. Thank You. Dylan Clancy

--

Sean Clancy

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From: Tricia Maughan
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 6:31 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: George Washington Carver

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To Whom It May Concern,

Waldorf education gives children and young people a different education. While traditional schools serve the academic needs of a student, waldorf schools do so much more. Waldorf Schools recognize that human beings have emotion needs, spiritual needs, physical needs, and academic needs.

When we look at human beings in this way, we treat them and we teach them in a more healing way. Through art, hands on experiences, small school campuses, and kinder more gentle teachers, we start to meet the many needs that our students have. Doesn't our country need and deserve more of that? More healing???

My child has been greatly blessed by George Washington Carver. It has given my mentally ill child a place to belong and to fit in. The caring staff members and supportive students buoy my child up each day. There is not another school like this anywhere in the area. If Carver closes, my child will not have a school to attend.

My child is not alone in his very unique needs. Carver meets the needs of many unique students. Carver gives these unique students a place to thrive and be accepted. With the increase in mental illness and suicides, let's do all we can to give young people a safe, happy, and supportive place to go to school. Please do not cut Carver's funding.

With gratitude and hope,
Tricia Maughan

Board Meeting Public Comment

My name is Ekman Kahlon and I am a 12th grader at George Washington Carver. My experiences at this high school have been overwhelmingly positive. Coming from a public middle school with over 1000 students, I can definitely say that a smaller school has had a much healthier impact on my growth as a successful student. Carver's tight-knit community makes it stand out compared to all the larger high schools. I truly appreciate the opportunities I've been given to take multiple AP and ACE classes in which I am earning college credit and I have competitive access to colleges. I don't have to worry as much about getting accepted into prestigious schools due to the amazing acceptance rate of Carver graduates. Our advanced classes have the perfect mixture of a rigorous course along with very insightful points of view thanks to our caring teachers. With emphasis on social and environmental justice, we are encouraged to have thought-provoking conversations with our peers. No one's voice or opinions are ever shut out. This needs to be the focus in the world of education- never shutting out students' voices on topics that may be deemed "uncomfortable" or "unnecessary." This prepares us for real world conversations, and it shows that our teachers really value our input. This school's uplifting and welcoming nature truly has helped me become a better student and person.

From: Moments to inspire
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2020 9:01 PM
To: Maria Smith; SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: My comment

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Dear Board of directors I am speaking for George Washington Carver School Of Arts And Sciences, Carver is not just a school. Yeah it may be a place where we can come to to learn and make friends, but it is also a place where we can grow maturely in ourselves and see other people grow as well. I am however not a student anymore but I am an alumni and I still love Carver very much and I would hate to see it come to Carver having to close because Carver has so much to offer every student that walks through those campus gates. When you walk through Carver's gates it may not look like much but it is. Carver has so many amazing programs that help so many students. Here at Carver we have a program that helps students earn a semester or two of college credit even before they begin their adventure to college. Now tell me how amazing that is, that these students have an opportunity like that. And Carver has so much to offer then just school programs, Carver is a SAFE haven for students so they can feel loved and wanted. Now a days teens have mental health problems or mental health illness like anxiety disorders or depression and here at Carver Instead of bullying and dismissing this fact, we help them and make sure they have a safe place to come and talk about anything they need. Or if they just need a hug and support we are there to give it to them. Here at Carver we want it to be safe for our students and teachers. But not only is it a safe space for everyone but kids from all over choose to come here to Carver instead of some where else. Carver to me is special, it's not just a building but a home. And it's a home to many other students and teachers as well. So cutting these programs and making low budgets will potentially close this amazing incredible school. And that would be a loss to the community because this school is more than words can describe thank you.

From: Philip Roberto
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:44 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: 12/10/20 8.0 Board Comment

12/10/20 Section 8.0 Board Comment

My name is Phil Roberto and I teach art at George Washington Carver High School. As the district places importance on being a Safe Haven for students at risk, who may experience bullying, who may feel insecure in so many ways, it is important that you know Carver is a safe place for students who may not find a safe home in the large comprehensive schools.

-
Carver's inclusivity is very apparent, this is even clear to many campus visitors from within the district and the community.

-
Carver has created a niche for many marginalized students:

- 25% of our population consists of students classified with 504's and IEP, which is much higher than the average.
- Carver is a haven for LGBTQ students. At a small school with a population of less than 275 we have had as many as 60 active GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance) club members. It is not uncommon for clubs of this sort to have only 5-10 active members in schools with populations in the thousands. Carver is a safe place for all kids.

-
71% of students identifying as LGBTQ report being bullied.

In a recent School Climate Survey only 10% of Carver students stated they had sometimes been bullied.

Comparably the national average of students reported being bullied is 20% which doesn't even compare to the whopping 1 in 3 (33%) of students in California reporting bullying issues

The climate of security we have cultivated at Carver is fully embraced by students. It is apparent in their social justice work, in their efforts to advocate and stand up for each other and themselves, and in the reflections from alumni who have gone out into the wider world with confidence and the drive to make change.

Phil Roberto M.Ed
Art, AP Art, Yearbook
George Washington Carver
School of Arts and Science

December 09, 2020

SCUSD School Board

Dear SCUSD School Board,

I am a student currently attending George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science. I am in the tenth grade, and although my second year of high school is remote, the school is creating a wonderful experience for me, both socially *and* academically. You may think that, because of our schools' small size and lack of "traditional high school experiences" like football and homecoming, the students miss out on much of what "normal teenagers" don't. I am here to remind you that Carver students are far from "normal teenagers". Our numbers may be small, but we know how to think critically, analyze, and work together in a small tight-knit community. We don't miss out on doing things that students from other schools do. We still make friends, get into relationships, and spend time studying together after school (although that part may be put to a standstill because of COVID restrictions).

All the educators at Carver really are wonderful. I still remember on the second day of freshman year, I walked into my first-period math class, and my teacher addressed me by name. At a larger school, a teacher would have taken at least a semester to remember a student's name and apply it to the correct face. At Carver, we all know each other, and that helps us connect.

As far as academics go, I feel I am privileged to attend Carver. We have a special education program that has helped me with math goals. We get lab science all four years, which creates a hands-on experience and allows us to see fully what goes on in the scientific world. In our social science classes (ie geography, ethnic studies, history), we look at social and environmental justice issues. Looking at these issues makes us aware of the world around us and how we can change the world for the better. After all, is that not what generation z is supposed to do?

I am a musician, and when I graduate I want to pursue a four-year university and major in music therapy. Carver has the means to create an environment that helps me get to that. I have done research that says Carver has a 100% graduation rate, while three miles away, Rosemont High has a 94% graduation rate.

Thank you for listening to me
Sincerely,

Grace O. Marsh-Wood
Student at GWCSAS

From: Kerry Thomas
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:29 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Cc: Christina Pritchett; Darrel Woo
Subject: Public Comment: George Washington Carver High School

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My public comment relates to items #8.0 General Public Comment and to #9.3 on the Fiscal Recovery Plan Adoption for the SCUSD Board Meeting December 10, 2020

Good evening Board Members and SCUSD Administration:

My name is Kerry Thomas. I am a parent of an incoming 9th grader at George Washington Carver High School. I live in Folsom, CA.

My daughter Alexandra began school in kindergarten and first grade in the Folsom-Cordova Unified School District in the Spanish enrichment program. Education in the town of Folsom is practically a contact sport. She became withdrawn and anxiety-ridden despite her excellent "grades," so we needed a different school option. We found that alternative within public Waldorf education.

She has been looking forward to continuing her Waldorf based education at Carver for several years. Currently she is attending Golden Valley River School in Orangevale, CA and has both been to a visit day during her 7th grade year as well as attending the virtual visit day held at the beginning of this year.

As a Waldorf family, we have seen tremendous personal growth in our daughter through the renaissance-type curriculum that Waldorf education provides. Social justice is an incredibly important aspect of education. Becoming a part of a community that better reflects our diverse state in both ethnic and socio-economic aspects, she will be able to learn in a more inclusive environment. By supporting and attending the first public Waldorf high school in the country, she wants to actively challenge herself to become an involved community member within Carver. A small high school environment where she can build and nurture relationships with both peers and faculty is one key to her success in this area.

Alexandra wants to pursue a career in neuropsychology. She attended last summer's Academic Talent Search program and took the "Brain Power!" class on neuropsychology. She also hopes to attend a class with the ACE program provided at Carver to make the most of the extra academic opportunities that Carver provides for students. These are the types of students that Carver's Waldorf program recruits from surrounding districts. Based on the 80-100 out-of-district students that Carver enrolls each year and the ADA of \$11,495 per student, Carver's out of district students generate about \$1 million in revenue per year.

I challenge both the Board members and the SCUSD Administration to look back to their own early educational experiences and then to their experiences in high school. How did those environments

affect your outcomes? Which teachers encouraged you to take chances and push yourselves to discover what was truly inside you all along? Who was it that made the difference? The faculty, the administration, and the peer groups at George Washington Carver use and work within the Waldorf curriculum to do just that. It is imperative that Carver, the first public Waldorf high school in the United States is financially supported to continue its inclusive educational mission.

Respectfully yours,

Kerry Thomas