

**Sacramento City Unified School District  
Board of Education Meeting**

**August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Doumon Kashkooli
School:	William Land Elementary school
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Dear Sac City Unified School Dist. BOE members,</p> <p>My name is Doumon Kashkooli and I am deaf and half-blind parent to my son named Saman Kashkooli and I am exploring possible school transportation for my son from our residence address located at 200 P Street, Sacramento CA 95814. I have asked my neighborhood complex for assistance with carpooling to drop off or pick up my son to &amp; from William Land Elementary school but they aren't able to help me out with my son's transportation needs. Also, the William Land Elementary school public school bus stop is way too far from our current residency area and I need your help to secure my son's transportation needs before my son's school starts on August 31th, 2023. If you would like to get in touch with me to discuss the transportation options for my son, that'd be greatly appreciated since I am not able to drive to drop him off at or pick him up from William Land Elementary school. I'm starting to get very stressed about my son's transportation options. I am reachable by either calling to the number or email address provided.</p> <p>Thank you, Doumon Kashkooli</p>

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Board of Education Meeting**

**August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Janice Dzwonek
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	How you guy react to issue within the school! Like head lice! Bullying! Favoritism by teacher or treating young parents like we're students too

Sacramento City Unified School District  
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Name:	Savannah Russell
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Can't wait!!

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**August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Fayzah Mughal
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>To: Interim Superintendent Lisa Allen &amp; the SCUSD School Board From: Fayzah Mughal, Trustee Area 3, Mom of 2 current students + 1 2023 Grad</p> <p>Open Enrollment issues continue to plague our District and leave families in distress. We want the District to focus on policies that encourage families to enroll students where they choose and promote easy, informed, and quick enrollment.</p> <p>We want the School Board to instruct staff to follow its current policy and amend the policy and regulation regarding Open Enrollment to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Designate school site administrators/principals as the designee for identifying open enrollment spots at every school site. Ensure this is done equitably and without discrimination of protected classes.</li> <li>2. Remind staff that the state-mandated policy prohibits students residing in an attendance area from being displaced by children outside the attendance area. Give enrollment priority to neighborhood residents at schools of choice.</li> <li>3. Adopt as mandatory the provision in Education Code section 35160.5(b)(3)(B) that keeps siblings together, when requested by caregiver/parent. My 3 kids have been split up TWICE through con-capping over their elementary years with SCUSD.</li> <li>4. Enact a policy to avoid classroom splits at all sites when a grade is at 80% of required enrollment, even if it means an under-enrolled class/cohort.</li> <li>5. Ensure that changes to enrollment policies and procedures be implemented a year after adoption and must have community and family input before the policies are implemented. This is critical to building trust with families; timely action matters.</li> <li>6. Create a plain language webpage for Open Enrollment that is clear and provides families with all the information they need in one site, in multiple languages. (See Elk Grove Unified and San Juan Unified for examples.)</li> </ol>

**Sacramento City Unified School District  
Board of Education Meeting**

**August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Andrea Johnson
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>I am supporting the requests The Parents and Caregivers Union have made that the board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Designate school site administrators/principals as the designee for identifying open enrollment spots at every school site.</li><li>2) Remind staff that the state-mandated policy prohibits students residing in an attendance area from being displaced by children outside the attendance area.</li><li>3) Adopt as mandatory the provision in Education Code section 35160.5(b)(3)(B) that keeps siblings together, when requested by caregiver/parent.</li><li>4) Enact a policy to avoid classroom splits at all sites when a grade is at 80% of required enrollment, even if it means an under-enrolled class/cohort.</li><li>5) Ensure that changes to enrollment policies and procedures be implemented a year after adoption and must have community and family input before the policies can or will be implemented.</li><li>6) Create a plain language webpage for Open Enrollment that is clear and provides families with all the information they need in one site. (See Elk Grove Unified and San Juan Unified for examples.)</li></ol>

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**August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Jessica Pearson
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	I am a SCUSD parent of two and oppose split classrooms whenever it can be avoided: this is why parents leave and go to private school. If there is 80% of a grade level it should proceed as a single grade class.

**Sacramento City Unified School District  
Board of Education Meeting**

**August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Deanna Evans
School:	Crocker/Riverside Elementary
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I am a parent of an incoming 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Crocker/Riverside Elementary School (“Crocker”).</p> <p>I request that SCUSD maintain the current number of classrooms at Crocker and avoid allowing a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade split class, or any other split for that matter, at our campus.</p> <p>Split classes present a host of problems that our community seeks to avoid – unbalanced classrooms, less time for enrichment projects, and difficulty coordinating docent programs, field trips, and parent-participation activities. Additionally, our 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are departmentalized and seeing significant improvement in their students’ learning. A split class would stop this successful practice entirely.</p> <p>Like many parents and teachers, I was disappointed to learn that the District prevented open enrollment for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades at Crocker, thus creating a split classroom.</p> <p>It is unclear how maintaining current 22/23 classroom levels and or allowing open enrollment “creates additional positions.” Furthermore, not allowing either open enrollment and or continuing the current, 22/23 staffing and student levels appears to violate the District’s own policies:</p> <p>1) Item 7.4 of the SCTA/SCUSD contract provides, “[t]he District agrees to make every effort possible to reduce the number of split classes, as well as efforts to keep students at their neighborhood school.”</p> <p>2) The Board Policy Manual, Policy 5116.1: Intradistrict Open Enrollment, provides, in relevant part, “[s]tudents who reside within district boundaries may apply for enrollment in any district school. The Superintendent or designee shall determine the capacity of each district school and establish a random, unbiased selection process for the admission of students from outside a school's attendance area. In accordance with the law, no student currently residing within a school's attendance area shall be displaced by another.”</p>

Currently, enrollment for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes is 165 students (26, 26, 27, 28, 29, 29, respectively). My understanding is that the District never communicated 165 as “dangerously low.” As of this date, the District has not provided any data to suggest that open enrollment will result in a neighborhood student being displaced by another. How has the Superintendent or designee determined the capacity of Crocker, both for the current year and for 23/24? Relatedly, I am not aware of funding or budget concerns should the staffing remain at current, 22/23 numbers.

If anything, the District should welcome lower class sizes when possible, and every teacher, student, parent, and staff recognizes their benefits. This is true especially given that students across the District continue to suffer from the learning loss of COVID and the subsequent strike in 2022. The current 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students suffered greatly since 2020 and deserve every resource available to recover. SCUSD’s CORE Value provides, “[w]e recognize that our system is inequitable by design and we vigilantly work to confront and interrupt inequities that exist to level the playing field and provide opportunities for everyone to learn, grow, and reach their greatness.” Prohibiting open enrollment denies socio-economically disadvantaged students access to Crocker, whose CAASPP scores are substantially higher than many other schools. By its very nature, open enrollment can level the playing field and provide opportunities for everyone to learn.

I hope the District acknowledges the multiple benefits of maintaining Crocker’s current classroom levels and affords our students the opportunity to thrive after a tumultuous period.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Deanna Evans



Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments

Name:	Amber Bettes
School:	Crocker/Riverside Elementary
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>My name is Amber Bettes, I have a daughter in SCUSD school district and she is attending Crocker/Riverside Elementary. We do not live in the neighborhood of Crocker.</p> <p>My daughter was attending another school in the district, Bowling Green Elementary, which we were having problems with other students bullying and staff members harassing my daughter and the other staff members at Bowling Green weren't doing anything about it.</p> <p>Decided to sign up for open enrollment but then the strike happened and the district wasn't providing any services. I fought hard and pushed our issues with the district. Had to contact the members of The Board of Education to finally get my daughter transferred from Bowling Green to Crocker/Riverside, and it is a night and day difference with how my daughter is doing now. She now has an IEP that we knew she needed and Bowling Green wasn't helping with, Crocker/Riverside got the IEP all set up for us right away.</p> <p>This all happened during 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. In the middle of last school year was when my daughter got transferred to Crocker, then at the end of the school year had to do an Intra-District Permit, which had to jump through even more hoops to get finalized.</p> <p>All the stress, red tape and unclear information you have to go through for Open Enrollment and/or Intra-District Permit is chaotic. It needs to be easier to understand and easily accessible for everyone.</p> <p>Having the Open Enrollment and Intra-District Permits make it possible for students like my daughter to have a better, healthier school experience and education.</p> <p>Thank you for you time Amber Bettes SCUSD Nutrition Services</p>

**Sacramento City Unified School District  
Board of Education Meeting**

**August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Chris Castagna
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>To the SCUSD School Board,</p> <p>I strongly opposed split classrooms. As a parent who is also an educator, I recognize that managing two different levels of curriculum class preparation requires a significant increase in class preparation. The more overworked the educator, the worse the classroom experience for the student. Split classrooms also means a decrease in the amount of attention to a given student age cohort on much of the subject matter. Less direct instruction is problematic at the K-12 level. As a college level professor, I have seen a significant decline in the level of preparation of incoming first-year students in the Sacramento area; especially in the post-lockdown era. I do not want my child or her peers to suffer from this kind of mismanagement.</p> <p>I do not want teachers, students, or the community to suffer as a result of disinvestment in the classrooms.</p> <p>Please adopt the provisions requested by the Sac City CPU Steering Committee:</p> <p>Designate school site administrators/principals as the designee for identifying open enrollment spots at every school site.</p> <p>Remind staff that the state-mandated policy prohibits students residing in an attendance area from being displaced by children outside the attendance area.</p> <p>Adopt as mandatory the provision in Education Code section 35160.5(b)(3)(B) that keeps siblings together, when requested by caregiver/parent.</p> <p>Enact a policy to avoid classroom splits at all sites when a grade is at 80% of required enrollment, even if it means an under-enrolled class/cohort.</p> <p>Ensure that changes to enrollment policies and procedures be implemented a year after adoption and must have community and family input before the policies can or will be implemented.</p> <p>Create a plain language webpage for Open Enrollment that is clear and provides families with all the information they need in one site. (See Elk Grove Unified and San Juan Unified for examples.)</p>

Sincerely,

Chris Castagna

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**Board of Education Meeting**

August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments

Name:	Melinda Adam Samsam
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>I'd like to voice my opposition to split classrooms. My daughter was in a spilt classroom at the beginning of 5th grade and it was not a success. The teacher worked hard, it was not a lack of experience or ability. However, my daughter did not get 100% dedication to her 5th grade skills that she should have. This was in a school where enrollment is usually at 100%, it was the first year back to campus after Covid. The district had funds and the school had teachers and classroom space. Decisions were made not with the best interest of the student in mind (which is what the district says it does) and not with the collaboration of parents, teachers, and administrators at that school. These decisions should not be made without local school voices heard and involved.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Melinda Adam Samsam</p>

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments

Name:	Chloe Quail Schmidt
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>There is already enough range in socio and academic development in a single grade level - this gap does not need to be stretched double. Making split classrooms the norm would be adding an entirely new layer of complexity to navigating these differences and would create an unnecessary challenge for teachers and students alike and stands to harm all of those involved. Personally, as a parent of a child who has been the youngest in his class, I do not favor partnering him with children 2-4 years older than him when his focus should be learning and developing.</p>

**Sacramento City Unified School District  
Board of Education Meeting**

**August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Tim Choi
School:	Crocker/Riverside Elementary
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Split classrooms hurt students. What information is available about the number and scale of split classrooms by school, school district, and zip code? How are you leading with racial equity in determining which students and families are impacted by the split classrooms? It seems deeply unfair that some schools will be burdened with more split classes than others. There should be ZERO split classes at Title 1 schools.</p> <p>We are requesting that the board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Designate school site administrators/principals as the designee for identifying open enrollment spots at every school site.</li><li>2. Remind staff that the state-mandated policy prohibits students residing in an attendance area from being displaced by children outside the attendance area.</li><li>3. Adopt as mandatory the provision in Education Code section 35160.5(b)(3)(B) that keeps siblings together, when requested by caregiver/parent.</li><li>4. Enact a policy to avoid classroom splits at all sites when a grade is at 80% of required enrollment, even if it means an under-enrolled class/cohort.</li><li>5. Ensure that changes to enrollment policies and procedures be implemented a year after adoption and must have community and family input before the policies can or will be implemented.</li><li>6. Create a plain language webpage for Open Enrollment that is clear and provides families with all the information they need in one site. (See Elk Grove Unified and San Juan Unified for examples.)</li></ol>

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**Board of Education Meeting**

August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments

Name:	Wayne Sheppard
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Comment on Miracle University

Sacramento City Unified School District  
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August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments

Name:	Sara Spencer
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>I strongly disagree with implementing split classes for our students that were impact by a reduction of enrollment due to distance learning during COVID. When splitting the classes or merging two grades into one class you are reducing the time a teacher can spend with students one on one. These students are still in the process of catching up from distance learning and deserve to have a teacher dedicated to them. Instead, this will further delay their ability to catch up, causing them to fall further behind in their learning.</p>



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August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments

Name:	Ryan Spencer
School:	Crocker Riverside
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Consider this my opposition to split classes and secret enrollment

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Board of Education Meeting**

**August 17, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Katie Sanford
School:	Theodore Judah
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Please add additional space / programs for after school school care at Theodore Judah elementary as soon as possible. There are many working families who don't have any other options for after care and rely on the resources at the school. Many children have not been admitted to the current ASES program at the school and have no where to go after school since both parents work. Other schools in our district (Caleb Greenwood, Phoebe Hearst, etc) have multiple programs with plenty of space for all children enrolled in the school.</p>