

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

March 6, 2025

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Jean Crowder
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Sacramento City Unified School District School Board Members:</p> <p>Community leaders throughout Sacramento have been valiant in the support of Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) unhoused students. Research shows that SCUSD unhoused students have barriers and obstacles as a direct outcome of their living circumstances. It is not only a legal obligation but also an obligation as an elected board member to provide needed both financial and staff support to keep unhoused students on a pathway towards high school graduation and post-secondary achievement. You are urged to uphold these publicly committed obligations and maintain SCUSD full financial and district-wide support to all unhoused students.</p> <p>JEAN CROWDER FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR Mathematics, Engineering, Science and Liberal Arts (MESL) Honors Academy</p>

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

**March 6, 2025**

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Anna Tyulya
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>I am here to advocate for Student Support and Health Services Coordinators; Mental Health Specialists, Student and Family Support Specialists, and Youth/Family Mental Health Advocates. Our department cannot serve its purpose without these positions. Many Coordinators and Mental Health Specialists are the pioneers and have served as invaluable pillars in developing and shaping the model/system of the department. Coordinators and social workers have a well developed team approach of providing an array of services to students and families that include basic needs assistance and mental health services. Thanks to the coordinators/ specialists, over the years many grants were written to bring resources to our schools, many community based service relationships were established and placed at school sites. Additionally, my colleagues coordinate tier one interventions at their sites such as Challenge Days, No time to Lose Conferences, prevention education, classroom pushins, staff trainings, and collaborating with school staff and community partners. Losing them would be huge disservice to our community and students.</p>

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

March 6, 2025

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Samantha Pareja
School:	C.K McClatchy
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Dear Sacramento City Unified School District School Board Members,</p> <p>For the past two years I have researched the difficulties and challenges that unhoused students face that often prevents students from attending school on a daily basis and from graduating from high school. Unhoused students need more support - not less. I strongly encourage all Board Members to approve more support for unhoused students, that Board Members do not take away any financial support, and to keep SCUSD employees working to help students succeed despite their living circumstances.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Samantha Pareja Student, C.K. McClatchy High School</p>

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

**March 6, 2025**

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Amanda Jaynes
School:	John Still
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>I am writing because I fiercely oppose the cutting of funding for the Student Support Coordinator position. Our student support coordinators provide vital services to our students, including SEL lessons, classroom presentations, linkage to community resources, among many other services. Just this week, our coordinator arranged for dental screenings for the whole school, and I know this was the first time many of these kids had ever seen a dental hygenist. The coordinator also connects with parents individually to help them get food, clothing, housing, transportation, parenting support, and so much more. Our students and families will inevitably suffer without a Coordinator on site.</p>

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

**March 6, 2025**

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Nicole Kangas
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Two coordinators from the Connect Center (LGBTQ+ Support Services) are being laid off, and I am concerned that there has not been communication as to whether this program will continue. There are so many students in our system that benefit from this program, and in this political climate, providing these support services has never been more important. The impact of these job closures will be felt most by our underrepresented and vulnerable students and their families. Please reconsider and retain the positions of Chanise Hendrix and Daniel Buffington who do amazing and critical work for our LGBTQ+ students.</p>

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

**March 6, 2025**

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Yvette Menefee
School:	Fern Bacon Middle School
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>It is simply not acceptable that the LGBTQ support services program and it's staff are up for discussion regarding making cuts to positions. For a district that has a giant rainbow behind the board meetings and prides itself on being inclusive and safe....these cuts would affect many and I think we would be on the road to becoming one of those districts that bans books and outs kids. Cutting this program is NOT acceptable. A slippery slope...</p> <p>I cannot tell you how much I count on these individuals to help support our students and ensure their safety. This is major. Getting rid of this department will show the LACK OF EQUITY we provide our stakeholders. You would be taking away a major piece of what makes us a more inclusive and safe district for our students. This simply cannot happen. Our students will suffer. Our district...ups and downs, disagreements, etc. The LGBTQ task force and what they provide is one thing our district GOT RIGHT. Don't undo the good and allow us to take steps backward. Our kids will suffer.</p>

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

**March 6, 2025**

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Jen Cook
School:	C.K McClatchy High School
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>I am so saddened to hear that there are proposed cuts for our LGBTQ+ support staff at the district level. As the queer straight alliance advisor at McClatchy high school since its inception more than 20 years ago, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of these support services here in our district for our queer youth especially during this very challenging time nationally. We need, more than ever, the support services and that this staff provides. It is not an understatement to say that they are saving lives by providing the services they do for our students. Please reconsider this cut as would be a devastating loss to an already very at risk population. Thank you, Jennifer Cook (McClatchy staff since 1996, QSA advisor since 2000)</p>

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

**March 6, 2025**

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Ari
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>I am writing today to express my deep concern regarding the proposed job closures in the Student Support and Health Services Department, as shared during the February 20th Board Meeting. Among the positions under consideration for elimination are 23 student-facing roles, including the LGBTQ+ Support Services Coordinator and the Student and Family Support Specialist—critical members of a small, dedicated team that provides essential support to our LGBTQ+ students and their families.</p> <p>While I am not one of the individuals directly impacted by these potential layoffs, I am deeply concerned about the far-reaching effects this will have on our school community. The services provided by these roles are vital to the wellbeing of our LGBTQ+ students—many of whom are already navigating significant challenges. The loss of these positions would strip away much-needed support for our most vulnerable students, leaving them without the resources they rely on for safety, guidance, and advocacy.</p> <p>At this time, we have received little communication regarding what the district’s plan will be for continuing or replacing these vital services. The lack of clarity only deepens our concerns and leaves us uncertain about how the district plans to uphold its commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and student wellbeing moving forward.</p> <p>I urge the board to consider the significant consequences that these job closures would have, not just for those directly affected, but for the students and families who rely on these services every day. We need clear answers about how the district intends to support the LGBTQ+ community moving forward and ensure that these critical roles are preserved, not eliminated.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this important issue.</p> <p>Ari Lozano, LMFT Director of Mental Health Gender Health Center <a href="https://www.genderhealthcenter.org/">https://www.genderhealthcenter.org/</a></p>



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March 6, 2025

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Amanda Lemmond
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Dear SCUSD School Board Members,</p> <p>My name is Amanda Lemmond and I am a school nurse at John Still K-8. I am writing to express my concern and disappointment regarding the decision to eliminate Student Support Coordinator positions within our district. As a school nurse, I see firsthand how vital our Student Support Services Coordinator, Michelle Weaver, is to the well-being of our students and our school. I am asking you all to please reconsider this decision for the sake of our students.</p> <p>Michelle works incredibly hard for John Still's students and families to make sure they receive the resources they need to succeed at school. She has close relationships with some of the most vulnerable students and provides a safe space to support them through challenging times. For some students, Michelle is their trusted adult- their safe person to turn to. Having Michelle at John Still means our students are kept safe and feel supported- something they need in order to succeed at school.</p> <p>Michelle's presence is not only essential to our students, we rely on her as support staff at the school for so many things. From leading COST meetings every week to ensure that support staff at John Still is aware of students that are struggling and may need additional services, planning school assemblies that enrich our student's learning, and most recently, coordinating the dental screening event at our school to ensure our students received preventive dental care- these are just a few things that Michelle does in her role for John Still. Michelle is the only person in Student Support Services that works full-time at our school. Without her, I worry that some students would fall through the cracks.</p> <p>I understand the financial constraints that may have led to this decision, but I urge you to consider the long-term consequences. Schools thrive when students feel supported, and eliminating these positions will only widen the gaps for those who already struggle. I respectfully ask that you reconsider and explore alternative budget solutions that do not sacrifice the well-being of our students.</p>

Sincerely,

Amanda Lemmond

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

March 6, 2025

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Addison Wilks
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Hello, My name is Addison and I work at the Sacramento LGBT Community Center as a youth advocate. I recently learned of the proposed budget cuts that would eliminate 2/3 of the staffing of the LGBTQ Task Force. This small group of student advocates is essential to protecting the well-being of LGBTQ students in the Sacramento Unified School District. The impact would be negative and deeply felt by students that rely on this team to advocate for their needs and concerns at school. LGBTQ students are especially stressed during this time due to the current administration's views and policies towards transgender and gender non conforming people. Our resource center has seen a massive up tick in trans and GNC youth seeking out services and information during this grim time. To cut resources now would be a mistake and could very well cost people their lives. Many LGBTQ youth resort to self harm and/or suicide in their lives due to a sense of alienation and hatred cast upon them by society. It is our responsibility as teacher, advocates, and adults to shift culture so that young people want to live. I urge you to reconsider these proposed cuts.</p>

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**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Vanessa Reyes
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>I am writing this to urge to Board to consider the repercussions that the current job cuts will have on the LGBTQ+ Support Services team. 2/3 of their staff are set to be laid off by the end of the fiscal year, leaving 1 person to support and uplift the needs of District's LGBTQ+ community. Please consider seeking alternative funding options to keep this small, but mighty team afloat so that they can continue to provide critical services to our most underrepresented and vulnerable students and their families. This is especially critical even more so now, considering that our current federal administration is seeking to eliminate the rights and protections of LGBTQ+ people. They are needed now, more than ever, and we cannot leave 1 staff person to engage in this work alone.</p>

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**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Desiree Breckenridge
School:	John Still Middle School
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Dear Members of the School Board,</p> <p>I am writing to advocate the absolute need for the Specialist II, Mental Health Specialist position at John Still Middle School. My son has been receiving mental health services throughout his seventh and eighth grade years. This position should be recognized and celebrated, not at risk.</p> <p>The average middle school classroom student to teacher ratio is approximately 29 students. Teachers, though highly skilled and dedicated, do not have the resources or training to address the specific needs of students dealing with trauma, anxiety, depression, or other mental health challenges. The mental well-being of these students is crucial their success in all aspects of their life- academics and beyond. The benefits of providing students with individualized, one on one support are immense and it is crucial that we equip our schools with the necessary resources to support all aspects of student development, including emotional and mental health.</p> <p>The life skills my son has learned as a result of this service are invaluable. My son feels supported, he feels cared for, he feels safe. He feels like he has someone he can open up to and express himself- whether it be for accomplishments or struggles. He feels praised. He feels heard. He feels like his voice matters.</p> <p>Having the support of the Specialist II, Mental Health Specialist has changed my son's life in such a positive way. The lifelong impact of skills such as leadership and communication will shape his future. He has built confidence in his decision-making skills. The guidance and coping skills he has received will help him through high school and benefit him well into adulthood. I will say it again, this position should be recognized and celebrated, not at risk!</p> <p>We must prioritize the mental health of our children to ensure they grow into resilient, well-rounded individuals. The continued presence of a mental health specialist is an investment in their future well-being and success, both inside and outside the classroom. I strongly urge the board to recognize the indispensable value of this position and continue to provide our students with the support they deserve.</p>

Thank you for your time.

Desiree Breckenridge

Sacramento City Unified School District  
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March 6, 2025

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Avery Guevara
School:	John Still Middle School
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Dear Members of the School Board,</p> <p>My name is Avery, I am a 8th grade student at John Still Middle School. I am writing to share with you how much Miss Michelle, the Specialist II, Mental Health Support Specialist at our school, has helped me grow and how important her support is to me and other students like me.</p> <p>Miss Michelle helped me during a difficult time in my life. I lost my dad the summer before I started 7th grade. Miss Michelle listened to me and helped me to figure out my feelings and always made me feel like they were important. I feel like Miss Michelle really cares about me and like I matter and that kind of support has been important to me. She helps me with school, with personal issues and academic challenges and has helped me build confidence and leadership skills. When I talk to Miss Michelle I feel heard and understood in a safe space where I can express myself. I feel like her support has helped me to succeed through middle school. Her guidance teaches me to handle peer interactions better and to think before I act. She praises me for my grades and encourages me to do better and stay focused when I struggle. She has taught me that it is okay to reach out for help when I need it. One thing that meant a lot to me is when Miss Michelle showed up to my basketball games. Knowing she cared enough to show up made me feel very supported outside of school and academics.</p> <p>The support of Miss Michelle will help me in future years as well. She taught me that it is good to open up and express myself and to believe in myself. These qualities will help me handle challenges I face in high school and as an adult. I hope she can keep helping students in the future.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Avery Guevara</p>

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March 6, 2025

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Danielle Gomez
School:	John Still
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>I am writing this in regards to that status of student support coordinators specifically Ms. Michelle, she has been detrimental in the growth of my daughter. She has helped her overcome many events in her life that sometimes needs more than a parent's advice. Without her help or any of the mental health counselors at school it would be difficult for her to positively look at events in a productive manner. To cut this resource to our youth would be detrimental to them becoming successful and thriving adults. It's always been said that, " it takes a village...." Imagine not being able to talk to someone you trust about your life, ask yourself, if we lose our youth to suicide was getting rid of our mental health counselors at school worth it to save some money? I ask you as a concerned mother to not cut this resource. WE NEED THESE COUNSELORS!!!!</p>



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**March 6, 2025**

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Jessica Gonzalez
School:	John Still and Fern Bacon
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>My name is Jessica Gonzalez, I have served as a school social worker with the district for 8 school years (2017-present). I am writing to you today in support of my colleagues whose positions are among the preliminary layoffs discussed at the previous board meeting.</p> <p>I am urging you to reconsider these layoffs and to take a moment to understand the impact this would have, not just on the students and families we serve, but on the Student Support and Health Services Department, and at school sites.</p> <p>Coordinators play an important and critical role in our district’s MTSS model. Leading Coordination of Services Team meetings (COST) which directly address the Tier 2 and 3 needs of our students and families. Through COST and the extensive efforts Specialists II make in leading these meetings, they help address attendance concerns, peer relationship challenges, mental health needs, social-emotional support, basic needs, and educational needs. They help coordinate and implement school-wide events such as school assemblies, dental screenings, backpack and uniform distribution, to name a few.</p> <p>Additionally, coordinators assist in supervising social work interns, and have trained many of the school social workers working in our department today, myself included.</p> <p>As a school social worker, it would be virtually impossible to do my job without the support and leadership of a Specialist II. In addition to currently splitting my time between two sites (John Still- M/W/Th and Fern Bacon T/F), I serve on our district’s crisis team three times per year. All of my social work colleagues do the same, and many of them also serve at two or more school sites! The recommended school social worker to student ratio is 1:250; currently I am 1:1346 between my two sites. Eliminating Specialist II positions would dramatically negatively impact our department, our ability to provide quality direct services to students and families, and would exponentially negatively impact student mental health and school climate.</p> <p>Our students and families are facing high stress. Our students face homelessness, systemic racism, bullying, mental health concerns, cyberbullying, social media issues, and the constant and very real fear and anxiety surrounding school violence, amongst other stressors. Does it really make sense to remove such a vital resource from our schools and communities, in a time where these issues are at an all time high? How can we truly support the growth and learning of our students without the very much needed village that</p>

it takes to do so? I urge you to reconsider these layoffs, and to develop a more sustainable and realistic plan to allow for our dedicated staff to continue supporting our students and families.

Thank you.

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

**March 6, 2025**

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Kara R Okumura
School:	Tahoe Elementary Parent Participation Preschool
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>To: Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education Members Regarding: Tahoe Elementary Parent Participation Preschool</p> <p>My name is Kara Okumura, and I am a resident of your district. I am writing to you with great urgency and deep concern regarding the potential elimination of a program that is very beneficial to families in our district—the Parent Participation Preschool at Tahoe Elementary, led by teacher Tamara Toby.</p> <p>Even before my daughter attended her first class, I had heard from many parents about how invaluable this program is and how incredibly skilled Tamara is as an educator. I was eager for my daughter to join, especially since my family and I live just across Tahoe Park from Tahoe Elementary, in a neighborhood that is vibrant, supportive, and deeply connected. From the moment she stepped into the classroom, I saw her eyes light up with curiosity. She came home eagerly sharing new songs, new experiences, and, most importantly, a sense of belonging in her first-ever community outside our home.</p> <p>Now, as we approach the final few months of the toddler program, I can say firsthand how much it has enriched my daughter’s development and social-emotional learning, as well as my own understanding of myself and my spouse as parents. This program is not just about early childhood education—it is about fostering a lifelong love of learning, building community, and giving families a space to navigate the complexities of parenting. Losing it would not just affect the children currently enrolled—it would be a loss for the entire community. Families depend on these early childhood education opportunities, and without them, we lose an essential space where both children and parents can grow together.</p> <p>With this background in mind, I would like to offer suggestions for improving and strengthening the program for the future. Many parents, including myself, encountered significant difficulties when attempting to enroll due to a major lack of communication from the school administration responsible for registration. Calls and emails often went unanswered, which undoubtedly discouraged participation and decreased enrollment numbers. Fortunately, I was persistent and secured a spot, but I know that many families did not. This is especially frustrating for a program that is already underfunded and now at risk of disappearing entirely.</p>

Additionally, there is a significant opportunity to raise awareness about the program in order to increase enrollment. While I understand an advertising budget may not be feasible, there are alternative ways to promote it—such as partnering with local community organizations, engaging neighborhood associations, or speaking at local events in the park and surrounding areas. If funding is the primary concern, a modest tuition increase would likely be acceptable to many families. Parents could also play an active role in organizing fundraising efforts. There are many ways to advocate for the program’s survival and future growth—eliminating it should not be the only option.

I urge you to not only preserve this program but to invest in its future. Early childhood education is not a luxury—it is a necessity. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we as a community can work together to ensure its survival. My hope is that in two years, my newborn son will have the same opportunity to attend and experience the benefits of this incredible program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kara Okumura

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

**March 6, 2025**

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Holly Lucido
School:	Leonardo da Vinci
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>I am writing to express my strong disagreement with the proposed migration of the school age fee-based programs to the existing onsite free student afterschool programs, particularly at Leonardo Da Vinci School (LdV). As a current parent who utilizes the program at LdV, I have seen firsthand the significant benefits that the fee-based programs provide to our students and their families.</p> <p>The fee-based programs offer specialized activities and resources that are not available in the free afterschool programs. These programs are designed to cater to the diverse needs and interests of our students, providing them with opportunities for enrichment and personal growth. The migration to free programs would result in a loss of these valuable resources and negatively impact the quality of afterschool care.</p> <p>Furthermore, the fee-based programs are staffed by trained professionals who are dedicated to providing high-quality care and education. The transition to free programs may lead to a reduction in staff quality and expertise, which would be detrimental to the students' overall experience and development.</p> <p>Additionally, relying solely on free programs with tight school budgets in the current economic climate should not be considered a guarantee. Free programs are often subject to budget constraints and funding limitations, which can lead to inconsistencies in the quality and availability of services. This uncertainty can have a negative impact on the students and their families who depend on these programs for reliable afterschool care. Taking away slots for families who do not have the means to pay for before/afterschool care just seems wrong.</p> <p>In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reconsider the decision to migrate the school age fee-based programs to the existing onsite free student afterschool programs. The fee-based programs play a crucial role in supporting our students' academic and personal growth, and their elimination would have far-reaching negative consequences.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>

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

**March 6, 2025**

**Written Public Comments**

Name:	Holly Lucido
School:	Leonardo da Vinci
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>To The Sacramento City Unifies School District Board Members:</p> <p>I am writing to formally request access to the financial data and a detailed breakdown of the Leonardo Da Vinci School Children Center program. As a concerned stakeholder, I believe it is crucial to understand the financial aspects of the program, especially in light of the proposed 70% increase in fees.</p> <p>Frankly, it feels like the District is punting childcare services to the ‘free programs’ not knowing if spots will be available for the increase of need in order to ‘solve’ the District’s problem with no regard to the students, parents, and workforce.</p> <p>While I acknowledge that prices are rising across various sectors, I must express my strong opposition to this significant fee hike. Such an increase is unattainable for most families and would place an undue burden on them. It is important to consider the broader context, such as the insurance industry in California, where similar price hikes have been met with resistance due to their impact on affordability and accessibility.</p> <p>Additionally, the proposed fee increase is on par with private school tuition, which means that students will have to leave public school in order to receive care since their caregivers work. This situation is untenable for many families who rely on the Leonardo DaVinci School Children Center for affordable and accessible childcare.</p> <p>Furthermore, with the pending budget crisis and funding uncertainty, it makes no sense to close or endanger a center that is already operating over capacity. The Leonardo DaVinci School Children Center plays a vital role in our community, and any actions that jeopardize its operations would have far-reaching consequences.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider the proposed fee increase and explore alternative solutions that do not place an excessive financial strain on families. Transparency in financial matters and a collaborative approach to addressing budget challenges will help ensure the continued success and sustainability of the Leonardo DaVinci School Children Center.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response and the opportunity to review the requested financial data.</p>