

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 6, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Savannah
School:	Mark Twain Elementary school
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	To whom this may concern I would like to meet someone from the board in my children's safety please contact me [REDACTED] or Email me [REDACTED]

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Name:	Erica Johnson
School:	Abraham Lincoln
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>My child has been wearing perfume to school everyday and she does not wear heavy perfume either. She leaves the house by 7:30 and walks to school by the time she gets to school the perfume scent is not that strong. Her teacher Miss divine has been sending her to the principal's office and making her change she also had her wait outside the classroom which is taking time away from her learning she even made her go wash her hands and arms and the bathroom sink with soap and water. I find that as a harassment to my child not once did this teacher call me to let me know and have a respectful conversation with me about it . My child came home two days in a row in different clothes I do not want my child changing her clothes at school for having to sit outside because she decided to wear a little bit of perfume. This is new news to me because like I said my child has been wearing perfume every single day since she started this year and not once has it been mentioned to me that the teacher has a sensitivity to any perfumes. I am teaching my child about personal hygiene and if my child wants to wear a little bit of perfume I will allow it. If this teacher continuously harass my child and makes her sit outside I will be pulling her out of the school.</p>

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Written Public Comments

Name:	Mikaili Kamau
School:	Capitol Collegiate Academy
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Greetings again School and D-8 Folks, Freeport Elementary closed in 2012, but your sign still reads "Freeport Elementary". Is this intentional, or is there some reason it hasn't been updated or replaced? If the issue is funding, perhaps District 8 council person and or some of the local non profit orgs could help raise some funds and or assist with some resources to get it replaced or updated.</p> <p>In case anyone is interested in following up with having it replaced, I've included some information on vendors, pricing and material options.</p> <p>The least expensive would be a "sign face replacement" to remove and replace the old sign letter tracks and cover.</p> <p>More expensive would be an electronic programmable sign.</p> <p>Individual replacement parts are also available for purchase and could be replaced and installed easily with common hand tools.</p> <p>Isn't it time for a new sign??</p> <p>Thanks in advance for your response and thoughts.</p>

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Written Public Comments

Name:	Jamie
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>I am here as a constituent to advocate for the families and students living in fear of deportation. I understand that the district is limited on what protection can be offered, however I think it would speak volumes if the district expressed its commitment to the students by way of upholding social justice, compassion, and a commitment to stand up for what is right.</p>

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Written Public Comments

Name:	Libby Chase
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Please release the next years calendar sooner, every other local school district releases their 2025/26 calendar months before ours. The main issue is that every family has to plan summer camps \$\$\$\$\$ and child care and time off around this calendar. If you expect attendance to be higher then this should be made available in advance. My child missed the first week of school last year because you posted it too late. Here we are again and summer camp sign ups are due in march or your kid doesnt get a spot so you need to plan to post the calendar before that time. Please and thank you.</p>

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Written Public Comments

Name:	Sarah Dorricott
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>My name is Sarah and I represent Middle Tree Sacramento, a nonprofit academic support organization dedicated to providing accessible, high-quality tutoring and educational resources to students in our community.</p> <p>I am reaching out to formally request an opportunity to attend and present at your next board meeting. Our goal is to share how Middle Tree serves as a valuable resource for students, offering support to help fill academic gaps and ensure every child has the tools they need to succeed. We believe our program can be a vital addition to the district's existing support system, providing personalized learning assistance that complements classroom instruction.</p> <p>We would greatly appreciate the chance to introduce our organization, discuss how we can collaborate with local schools, and explore ways to make these resources more accessible to students who need them most. Please let us know the process for being added to the meeting agenda and any next steps required.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response and the opportunity to engage in this important conversation.</p>

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Written Public Comments

Name:	Sarah Dorricott
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Dear Sacramento City Unified School District Board Members,</p> <p>My name is Sarah and I am reaching out on behalf of Middle Tree, a nonprofit academic resource dedicated to ensuring all students have access to the support they need to succeed. We recognize the incredible work SCUSD is doing to serve its students, and we would like to introduce Middle Tree as a secondary resource for students who need additional academic support outside the classroom.</p> <p>What sets Middle Tree apart from other tutoring centers is our Unlimited program, which allows students to come in for tutoring as often as they need for a low monthly fee of just \$200 per month. We believe that academic support should not be restricted by time limits or high costs, and our model ensures that all students, regardless of financial background, receive the help they need to thrive.</p> <p>Middle Tree provides affordable, high-quality tutoring and mentorship for students of all grade levels. Our mission is to remove financial and accessibility barriers so that all students can receive the individualized support they need. We work closely with families to provide assistance in core subjects, test preparation, and overall academic confidence.</p> <p>We believe a strong partnership between SCUSD and community-based organizations like Middle Tree can help bridge gaps in learning, especially for students who may need extra reinforcement beyond the school day. We would love the opportunity to collaborate with SCUSD schools, teachers, and families to support student success.</p> <p>We welcome the chance to discuss how we can complement the district's existing efforts and contribute to the academic success of SCUSD students. Please feel free to reach out to us to explore potential ways we can work together.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the students of Sacramento.</p>

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February 6, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Amber Stott
School:	Luther Burbank
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Re: Support for BUG & Farm to School Programs at SCUSD</p> <p>Dear School Board Members,</p> <p>“Apples are way better than cupcakes!” This quote came from a student at Leataata Floyd Elementary School. This is not an unusual thing to hear from the 16,280 students who have received hands-on cooking and nutrition lessons from Food Literacy Center since 2012. Our afterschool programs have been inspiring kids to eat their vegetables, helping them build healthy habits that last a lifetime.</p> <p>This is critical in a school district where 58% of students experience food and nutrition insecurity, resulting in a 40% childhood obesity rate. Kids who don’t get enough food are at highest risk for diet-related diseases. Food Literacy Center reaches students at a young age to help them learn to protect their most precious asset: their health.</p> <p>In the decade and a half that our nonprofit has provided programs to SCUSD, we have formed many crucial partnerships. In 2014, we received our first USDA Farm to School grant in partnership with the Central Kitchen. This allowed us to create a Veggie of the Month program, where we collectively selected one new, seasonal vegetable to highlight each month. During students’ school day, they would have the opportunity to eat this vegetable from their salad bars at lunch thanks to Central Kitchen. During their science classes run by Soil Born Farms, they would grow or harvest this vegetable in the garden. And during after school programs, they would cook with this vegetable with Food Literacy Center. This program remained in place until the pandemic of 2020. Over the years, we changed entire school cultures, turning students and teachers into food adventurers excited to eat their veggies!</p> <p>Last year, Food Literacy Center started teaching cooking classes to high school students for the first time because of our relationship with Todd McPhearson. His BUG (Burbank Urban Garden) program at Luther Burbank High School and our nonprofit have worked closely over the past decade on various community-wide food systems projects. We share a commitment to the principles of using healthy, local food to work upstream to build community-based food access solutions.</p>

When our food literacy instructor walked into his first class at BUG, he was excited to see six familiar faces. These were the same students he had taught in elementary school years before! He was impressed to find them still interested in learning to cook and grow their own food. It is rewarding to help students maintain their journey on this pathway. Without BUG, we might not otherwise have the chance to work with students past elementary school.

Today, we continue to work closely with both BUG and Central Kitchen. In fact, last month, we were collectively awarded a \$626K grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture Farm to School program. In this grant, food service employees in schools where food literacy programs are being delivered will be given the opportunity to train with Food Literacy Center staff to help deliver our hands-on cooking and nutrition classes. Funds from the grant also extend our cooking classes to BUG students. Additionally, we will produce a district-wide educational farm to school video that aligns with school time standards. This multi-year grant started in January 2025 and expires in March 2027.

This is just a snapshot of the farm to school projects happening among all our partners at SCUSD. All of these projects rely on collaboration, because we know that students' school experiences span many years and many needs. While our food literacy education focuses on healthy eating and cooking, these messages are repeated through our partnerships with BUG and Central Kitchen, amplifying the importance of the message, and ensuring these habits will stick with our students for life.

It is worth noting that the Farm to School movement is in its infancy. In 2017, Food Literacy Center successfully advocated for the state legislature to form a Farm to School program within CDFA. At the time, there was only a national farm to school program, but nothing at the state level. In 2021, the first CDFA Farm to School grants were funded. The award we currently share with Central Kitchen and BUG is only the third round of such funding. Farm to School programming is a cornerstone of the First Partner's agenda. This work continues to be viewed as a priority locally in America's Farm-to-Fork Capital, statewide, and nationally. Programs like Food Literacy Center, BUG, and Central Kitchen are viewed outside our region as models. Our school district is viewed as a leader in this field both inside and outside Sacramento. I have presented at national school conferences to packed rooms. We receive calls from across the country from peers asking how we have accomplished our work inside this district. Our successes here are viewed with high esteem.

"Frankly, I place you up there with Chefs Ann and Alice Waters," said one school food director from Lodi.

These programs are shining stars, because they are working. At Food Literacy Center, we have a 94% success rate in witnessing students taste new fruits and vegetables. At some schools, it's 100%! One of my first students is currently applying for nursing school, because she is dedicated to health. Another is earning her college degree in economics and policy, because she wants to end the problem of food deserts. Two others are working in professional restaurant kitchens in Sacramento. This is just a sample of the results we are seeing.

Because of their importance with corporations, foundations, and private donors, the farm to school programs at SCUSD are drawing hundreds of thousands of dollars of outside funds to support district students. Food Literacy Center receives funds from Raley's, Teichert Foundation, United States Department of Education via Congresswoman Matsui, Sutter Health, UC Davis Health, and many, many more. Nearly all of our nonprofit's budget is allocated to the programs we deliver to district students, including those at Luther Burbank. These farm to school programs stretch district dollars because of the breadth of these partnerships.

Thank you to the SCUSD Board of Education for having the vision to continue to support these critical programs. Let's keep successful programs like BUG fully funded! Many people locally—and nationally—are watching and learning from our example.

In health,

Amber Stott, Founder & Chief Food Genius