

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Margee Burch
Comment:	The Waldorf program at A.M. Winn is what makes our students want to learn. My children have struggled in traditional education and Waldorf is what makes them accomplish academic success. We moved from the Bay Area specifically so our children could have a waldorf education and learn at the specialty high schools. Do not cut funding for these programs. They are literally life-changing.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 2:41:31 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Joanna Gallagher
Comment:	As the district decides how to move forward financially, I urge you to protect and preserve all of the public Waldorf programs in the district, namely AM Winn, Alice Birney and Carver. Over 25 years, these programs have proven to benefit their students academically, socially, emotionally, and even physically. The academics are rigorous and rich, students looping from 1st to 8th grade build strong social bonds (especially beneficial for low SES students) among students and teachers, and the well-rounded program engages students' bodies in theater, movement, and handwork. These schools are highly-sought after, even enticing students from out of district. They are the way of the future and must be preserved in their totalities.

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 2:48:42 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Spencer Eccles
Comment:	<p>I am shocked, yet again, to see our Waldorf schools on the chopping block, along with arts and specialty programs. Our District loves bragging about the work done in the Waldorf schools, their outside experts tout the social-emotional benefits of looping with one teacher--especially for our low-income students--and the District's training specialists frequently seek out our Waldorf teachers for advice and best practices, yet the part of education that nurtures curiosity, builds a lifelong love of learning, and takes the whole child into account seems always the first to be cut.</p> <p>My three children started in this District, at our neighborhood school. They needed more! We left for a Waldorf school in another District. Five years later, we were thrilled to bring them closer to home once we could enroll them in the Waldorf programs now offered here. AM Winn, Alice Birney, and George Washington Carver High School add diversity to our District. They grow the creative problem-solvers of the world--those who have been nurtured in thinking outside the box.</p> <p>If you want to raise up students who are capable of solving big problems--like the problems this District continues to find itself in--don't make your cuts in the schools that are more likely to develop the creative problem-solvers of the world.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 4:09:01 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Deborah Richardson
Comment:	My daughter was failing in traditional school in the same school district. A.M.Winn gave my daughter a chance to learn and get assistance, when James Marshall refused to help. A.M.Winn gives students education and the ability to think outside the box. A.M.Winn teaches students that they can succeed, they teach students the typical education and back up there learning with music, handwork, and forgein language. This school is the only one O know where the principal knows all the kids by names. The teachers work together and work with their students, which I have not seen in other school. A.M.Winn needs to keep their funding, plus get additional money

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 4:43:31 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sara Goncalves
Comment:	<p>Hello, I am a parent of two students at AM Winn Elementary. We were originally at a school in Orangevale but heard about this amazing program and transferred. We immediately saw beautiful changes in my oldest who had been struggling emotionally. Between the whole-child approach, the looping (following the same teacher and class to 8th grade), and specialty programs, we have seen amazing things changing in our community. This school is life-giving and essential to the children suffering poverty in this community. Opportunities are given at AM Winn to children who would otherwise be forgotten in the background. The Waldorf way is creating children who WANT to learn, children who can think for themselves, children with empathy and emotional intelligence. We need this school for our future. We are really hoping to stay here and not have to look elsewhere for similar curriculum. Pulling my children out of their classes and from their teachers and classmates would be especially traumatizing as this school is our family.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 4:50:08 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Anna Tigranyan
Comment:	<p>When I became a parent, I had no clue what to do. I turned to parenting books to help me navigate my new world. One of my favorites was a book called "simplicity parenting" by Kim John Payne. I fell in love with his tactics. He said that a Waldorf education used these techniques. I decided then that I was going to make sure my children were raised in the Waldorf program. Luckily, the SCUSD had these types of schools. I had to go through the interagency transfer process to get my kids into the school. The process was tedious. I had to take a few vacation days off work to complete it, but it was well worth the hard work. The American education system ranks 27th among the world, and I believe the reason for such a low ranking is due to the fact that kids are forced to learn things that their brains aren't developed enough to handle. The Waldorf curriculum is based on child brain development. A Stanford study found that Waldorf students significantly outperformed their peers by the 8th grade. However, they do not perform at the same level during the earlier years. My children are in the earlier years, and I fear that they will not thrive in a traditional school because they will be behind their new peers. There are many parents with the same concern. Please do not close these schools.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 6:28:28 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Amy Green
Comment:	<p>My family lives in Fair Oaks. We transferred from the San Juan USD five years ago specifically to attend A.M. Winn after a year spent at CMP Carmichael. Winn had recently transitioned from being a traditional fundamental school to a Waldorf school, and as an educator myself with a Master's degree, I was already aware of the enormous learning advantages inherent in a Waldorf education, so my family jumped at the opportunity to join a public Waldorf school. Most Waldorf schools are in high demand, private and competitive to attend, so transferring to SCUSD was an easy decision. The fact that the district offered several public Waldorf schools (Winn, Birney and Carver) demonstrated to me that SCUSD aimed to put Sacramento on the map of quality districts in CA. These are destination schools worthy of district transfer that appeal to families who cherish creative thinking, advanced reasoning skills and a worldly view of culture. I now have two sons at A.M. Winn, both of whom have become self-directed, passionate learners because of the hands-on project-based approach to education provided by their Waldorf school. They will undoubtedly attend Carver when they graduate from Winn. There is no doubt in my</p> <p>mind that the quality of education provided by these three schools elevates the overall appeal of the district to parents from all over the Sacramento Valley region. Statistical evidence alone demonstrates the value of a Waldorf education for graduating high school students as they enter college. It is my hope that the district continues to support these three schools for years to come. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 6:34:14 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Amber Verdugo
Comment:	<p>Regarding agenda item 9.1: My name is Amber Verdugo and I am a parent of two lovely boys who attend A. M. Winn. At A.M Winn, my two boys are encouraged to take risks and be creative in their problem solving in a way that they did not experience in more traditional learning environments. They are engulfed in a community of teachers and parents who care about them and this school. They are exploring and engaging with the world, being challenged and encouraged, not just sitting at desks doing worksheets. The unique experience at Winn is not available at any other public school: the music and handwork programs, the cultural awareness and the art, the constant engagement with the world is unique and special. During my eldest's 3rd grade year, I worked in the classroom teaching the kids to make latke's, soup, bread and homemade jam; they chopped ingredients and cooked the vegetables they had grown in their own garden. The parents and staff at Winn have created a community that feels like family. We help each other, we watch each other's kids, we laugh and cry with each other and embrace all the challenges and changes. I have never experienced this level of community at any of the other schools my children have attended. Gavin has some challenges; he struggles with ADHD and emotional regulation. At his other school, by the time a teacher had learned the "tricks" that work with him, the year was over and he was starting fresh with a brand-new teacher who didn't understand him. At Winn, Gavin has developed a relationship with his teacher that will last until the 8th grade. Ms. Ryan gets him, she knows what works, and she knows how to keep him engaged and challenged. If Winn closes, my family has no reason to stay in this district. We will be seeking private options or choosing to homeschool. As the only Title I public Waldorf in the country, A. M. Winn is worth saving.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 6:53:27 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Chardonnay Kelly
Comment:	<p>I am a parent of two students with IEPs who attend A.M. Winn Public Waldorf. The benefits this unique school has had on my children are too numerous to count, but I will attempt to summarize by saying the the loving relationships and approach to teaching has transformed my third grader from being completely non-verbal and solitary at school in kindergarten - to confident, academically excelling and truly happy today - despite continuing via distance learning.</p> <p>If public Waldorf education is not an option for my family in SCUSD, we WILL NOT be attending the district any longer. We intentionally chose a Title 1 public Waldorf school for our family with the knowledge that its diversity, inclusion and commitment to nature and the arts would provide our children with a well-rounded school experience and prepare them for the future.</p> <p>SCUSD is home to the first and second public Waldorf schools in the United States. This is historic and admirable! Our school provides an amazing education to students who otherwise would not be able to access such an environment. The teaching methods at our Waldorf schools are research-backed and highly sought after among educators. Please recognize the monumental affect A.M. Winn has on a low-income community and your responsibility to continue acting as leaders in providing such opportunities.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 6:55:07 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Casey Alford
Comment:	My family has transferred two children from out of FCUSD district to attend AM Winn, and next year will be transferring our youngest. AM Winn is the only Title 1 Public Waldorf in the nation. The whole child approach here really works, and my children are thriving here: academically, socially, and emotionally. The relationships and safety they have built with their teachers over the years has been a catalyst to their learning, and not something that can be replaced. AM Winn is a unique gem of a school. After AM Winn, our only second choice would be to homeschool.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 6:58:46 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Margaret Arader-Mark
Comment:	<p>We live in Folsom but my daughter transferred to SCUSD in first grade so she may attend A.M. Winn Waldorf inspired school. We commute almost half an hour so that my daughter can have the immense benefits of the excellent education methods and community support offered at A.M. Winn. Even during these terrible shutdowns, A.M. Winn and my daughter's amazing teacher Rhoda Cortez have BY FAR provided the best distance-learning of any school I have seen. AM Winn is a gem that provides an education that is as good or better than expensive private schools. It would be absolutely fiscally suicidal for the district to eliminate or reduce the effectiveness of a school that so successfully provides this very wonderful and popular Waldorf type education. Without an intact, Waldorf</p> <p>Methods A.M. Winn, of course there would be no reason for me to bring my child so far to attend school in a different district, when we live in a district with many excellent schools! So SCUSD would lose the funding you receive for my child as well as the many others who come from outside of the district specifically for and only for this type of education.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 7:05:19 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Ashley Shiboyan
Comment:	<p>My family and I moved to Sacramento, from Los Angeles, and settled into this part of town, specifically for A.M. Winn. Growing up, in a traditional school, my husband and I faced many troubles, that our kids, fortunately, don't. Whether it was the emotional effects of switching teachers every year, right when we would finally get comfortable with them, or the fact that our teachers were so busy keeping up with a "traditional check-off list" and not getting involved with their students on an emotional level. A.M. is different. Our kids are treated as kids, and their mental and emotional health is taken care of. Our kids wake up each day, excited, to go to school, something we dreaded growing up. To even think of shutting down our school, is devastating. My family is asking to please reconsider, for the sake of our kids' mental, emotional and overall health.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 7:11:40 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Cyd Jaghory
Comment:	<p>Two of my children attend AM Winn; we transferred from outside of the district specifically for the wonderful public Waldorf schools that exist here and nowhere else. One long-time criticism of Waldorf education has been its lack of accessibility; private Waldorf school tuition is prohibitive for the majority of families. Public Waldorf offerings, therefore, are nothing short of revolutionary; SCUSD is to be commended for spearheading such an equitable enterprise. It would truly be a shame for this incredible accomplishment to be damaged or destroyed by a short-sighted bid for financial solvency without exhausting all other possible avenues.</p> <p>While we were drawn initially by the Waldorf embrace of the "whole child;" we could not have anticipated that we were joining a village that would nourish the "whole family." In a time of deep division, uncertainty, and general strangeness, this place fosters a community connected by our shared commitment to doing what's best for our children. This is reflected in the high rate of volunteerism amongst parents. It's reflected in low student turnover. It's reflected in an ever-growing awareness in the global Waldorf community (through programs like The Families Project, e.g.) of the grand experiment coming out of tiny little Sacramento.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 7:11:55 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Yelena Kopylov
Comment:	I have transferred my two boys from out of district to attend AM Winn. This school offers the nurturing environment and academic depth our family has not been able to find in any other public school. My boys can learn to knit, sew, garden, and play music and have excelled academically. This is whole child synergy where neurologically diverse children thrive. English as a second language learners thrive. We are part of the Russian community here, and are building something that is impacting this community for the better now, and it's growing every year. The love, dedication, and knowledge poured into these kids by their educators here is unparalleled.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 7:16:23 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Lara Long
Comment:	<p>Alice Birney Elementary School has changed my family's life. We have benefitted in exponential ways from the educational experience my children have received there. The education there is so much more than meets the idea. It addresses the whole child, incorporates brain development in it's delivery, brings nature and the arts into core subjects to deliver education that serves our children in an incredible way. In addition to that, the community of families at Alice Birney is strong and dynamic and supportive. We care for one another and look out for each other. Our staff feel more like neighbors that you love. Alice Birney has become the central anchor in our family's life...I cannot and do not wish to imagine our life in Sacramento without this school and ALL that it offers. This school has served my family but it serves all of its families and brings a different way of looking at education into a community that desperately needs new answers to old questions.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 7:25:20 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jessica Gimbel
Comment:	<p>I am a parent at AM Winn Elementary. We transferred our son to this school district for the amazing availability of public Waldorf schools that do not exist in other districts in the area. Waldorf engages all parts of the students mind using many different resources from in class instruction to gardening and hand work. This engages parts of the brain that aren't otherwise engaged in the standard curriculum. Waldorf teachers build bonds with their students and families that go deeper then most standard one year teachers. They understand how to best help each individual student learn and reach their goals. I am currently in my last semester to finish my teaching credential in k-8. One of the hardest parts of teaching is getting to know each individual student and their needs. In many cases it takes months for a teacher to build up that relationship and then the student moves on to a new teacher who has to achieve this all over again. Not in Waldorf schools. Each teacher builds a relationship with their students that carries from 1st to 8th grade. This is just one vital aspect to Waldorf. Their hands on learning is essential for our son. In Waldorf kids learn by doing and then ask questions. They discover the answers. This student led instruction is proven to be more effective. Our son thrives in the environment provided in a Waldorf classroom. My son is excited for school, his teacher, and his classmates. If this was taken from him I would be concerned that his love of education would deflate. It was an amazing blessing when we found that SCUSD offered the opportunity for our son to attend a public Waldorf school. Private Waldorf schools are usually out of most families price range. The fact that SCUSD offered this as a public school option was a blessing to many families. It would be a shame to see that taken away or damaged due to budget cuts.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 7:41:15 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Brandy Hill
Comment:	2 of my children attend A.M. Winn. It is very important to me that my children are able to continue their Waldorf education. I have no intention of sending my children to "regular" public school. If A.M. Winn was forced to close, our family would simply relocate to another district that offered a public charter Waldorf school. We have family that lives next to a great one in Oregon.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 8:06:59 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	John Wheeler
Comment:	<p>We moved our son into the district to have him attend AM Winn. The hands-on approach, learn through curiosity, built-in music program, and constant smiles attracted us. Since his first day of kindergarten AM Winn has been more than that. Acceptance, understanding, inclusion, and dedication describe each staff member. Does the office staff know my son by name? Yes. Does his teacher need to keep an eye on him more than other kids? Yes. Have we had multiple meetings with the principal? More than I care to say. But whether it's the office staff, his teacher, or our wonderful principal, we are met at each interaction with acceptance, understanding, inclusion, and dedication. As my son says "sometimes people need tools to use to help them". He's learning his tools outside of the classroom to help him be successful. AM Winn is dedicated to building on those tools inside the classroom to ensure his success. They accept him. They understand him. They include him. My son has found a home at AM Winn after multiple tries elsewhere. We can't have that taken away from him.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 8:12:35 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Helen Michael-Unimuke
Comment:	<p>As a parent who's interested in all rounded educational opportunities for growing children who will be the future of our community and country. They need to start learning all the necessary knowledge and skills of Arts, Music and Creative Skills they'll need. Which's provided in Amwinn and with the professional teachers doing so the kids will thrive. Please keep our Neighborhood school open.</p> <p>Thanks</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 8:34:29 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Leesa Mayes
Comment:	I have two children currently at AM Winn. They have gone here since kindergarten. The way they are taught here is much more suitable for my children. These teachers truly care about not only teaching our children regular school work, but they care about their development emotionally. They take the time to speak to our children with love and care. They teach our children to appreciate others for their similarities and their differences. They teach our kids to love who they are and who they are for going be. Closing the school would be devastating to our girls. They love their teachers and the classmates. This has already been a very difficult year, please do not making it worse by closing an amazing school.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 8:59:07 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Catita Anderson
Comment:	Alice Birney offers a whole child approach that benefits my special needs son that mainstream schools do not offer. The looping allows him to form strong relationships with his peers and teacher; as consistency is extremely important for a child on the spectrum. A special needs child is already at risk of slipping through the cracks, even with interventions. The community created at Alice Birney and the Waldorf philosophy help support him in the least restrictive way and with high emotional support. My neurotypical child receives benefits as well. All kids learn to bake, sew, work with wood and learn instruments. Ending funding to this alternative program would be reprehensible and to the detriment of our children and community.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 9:33:00 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Zachary Peck
Comment:	My daughter has had a unique and amazing experience at A M Winn. The Waldorff program has allowed her to grow and learn and reach her potential in so many ways that traditional school would not. She is excited to learn, to create, to explore. Her teacher goes above and beyond every day to provide a dantadtic educational experience. My two younger children now attend Winn as well. I wzntvyhem to have a chance to ggrow and eperience learning in this engaging, community based, free, artistic and enriching environment. This school has been a blessing for our children, and so many other children. It provides opportunities other schools do not. We have veen a part of it since the beginning, and watched it grow and the community around it grow. It is a really special place, and getting better and bigger every year. It is vital to the kids and families it serves

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 9:35:47 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Laney Preheim
Comment:	<p>My comment is in regard to agenda item 9.1, Fiscal Recovery Plan, and the discussion around Budget Reduction Options. I am a parent of two children at Alice Birney Waldorf School and after assessing your proposal, I assume Alice Birney may fall into the “Alternative Ed” line item.</p> <p>Closing Alice Birney would be a horror. The Waldorf curriculum is truly unique, special and centered on the educating and nourishing the whole child. Alice Birney provides music, art, gardening, drama and more. The relationships cultivated in our school are long term and deep due to our “looping” teaching practices. We are a consciously low-technology school, especially for our younger children.</p> <p>But do you know what is still one of the things that Alice Birney prides itself on the most? It’s that we are still part of Sac Unified District. It’s a beacon of pride that Sac Unified is progressive enough to see the value in what we are doing and support alternative academic approaches. In fact, Alice Birney and Sac Unified were featured in a Research Brief published by the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education, citing “Birney provides a counterbalance for what is possible to nurture the growth of the whole child” and “it is striking to see such an approach supported and promoted within the context of a school district.”</p> <p>The opportunity that is provided to EVERYONE in Sac Unified to choose this educational path is extraordinary. The fact of the matter is...if Sac Unified closes this spectacular school...the families with resources will move their kids to private Waldorf. But what will happen to the many, many, many families without the resources to pay for private education? What will happen to their children?</p> <p>Find a way to make this work. Utilize and work with the concerned, involved and creative individuals who make up the parent community of the “Alternative Ed” schools in the District. Together I know we can come up with creative solutions well beyond a hatchet.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 10:23:13 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Kate Burch
Comment:	One of the best things about SCUSD is the specialty schools. The Waldorf-style program at A.M Winn has been life-changing for our children. We have four kids at A.M. Winn. Our oldest child hated school until they started going to A.M. Winn. The focus on social emotional learning really helped them turn that around and now they love school. Our second child never quite settled at any of the other elementary schools she went to. She always worked hard and did well, but the environment at A.M. Winn really helped her blossom. They are both in the middle school program at A.M. Winn and are eager to advance to Carver for high school. Our two youngest kids are in the early grades at A.M. Winn and they LOVE it. All of our kids are thriving under the attention of the loving teachers. The small class size allows the teachers to give our kids the personalized attention and instruction that has allowed them all to flourish. Please don't close A.M. Winn or eliminate the Waldorf program.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/17/2020 10:26:42 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Nina Christensen
Comment:	My child has a out of district transfer . I choose AM Winn for the Waldorf experience of learning . My child has been there from the beginning and is now in 6th grade. We really like his teacher his classmates that he has grown up with . The education is great for him . We ask that you consider keeping this school open. Thank you

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 12:02:33 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Megan Seely
Comment:	<p>My comment is in regard to agenda item 9.1, Fiscal Recovery Plan, and the discussion around Budget Reduction Options. I am a parent of a 7th and 3rd grader at Alice Birney EK-8 Public Waldorf School and after assessing your proposal, I fear that Alice Birney may fall into the “Alternative Ed” line item.</p> <p>I am deeply concerned at the possibility that the district may opt to cancel a program as unique and effective as Waldorf. Alice Birney has created a connected community that embraces and teaches to the whole child. As a public school option, Alice Birney brings a Waldorf curriculum to a diversity of students. Waldorf curriculum is comprehensive, providing students with the opportunity to engage in art, music, gardening, music, handwork, and many more critical skills for a full life. The approach to academic curricula is one that has proven increased retention and comprehension, assisting our kids into the position of excelling as they move into high school and college. Remarkably, this program is available to all within Sac Unified, and as such has been honored and celebrated.</p> <p>I urge you to preserve programs like Alice Birney and others considered “Alternative Ed.” These programs provide important resources and programs. I’m confident that the district, along with teachers, parents, and students, can work together to come up with effective budget solutions.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 12:05:38 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jana Bittinger
Comment:	<p>I want to first acknowledge the difficult task this board faces in balancing funding challenges with the needs of our children's quality education. I have no doubt that the board members have our children's best interests at heart and want to simply express my concerns regarding the revised budget discussion items.</p> <p>I am the parent of a child who attends AM Winn Public Waldorf. Learning that this campus may be considered for closure or potentially a material scale-back in programs is a disappointing development. My son has attended AM Winn since kindergarten. As a family, we made a very deliberate choice with AM Winn and made this campus our FIRST choice, though we live in another neighborhood. Without a public Waldorf option, and specifically AM Winn, our family would need to thoughtfully consider alternatives, including a transition to homeschooling, something we are experiencing now to some extent.</p> <p>Why AM Winn? My husband and I believe in the Waldorf model and appreciate AM Winn's program which incorporates the core ideas of Waldorf philosophy (educating the whole child) with the real world family dynamics of its student base. The student body at AM Winn is diverse, both in terms of race/nationality and socio-economics, and this is EXACTLY why we chose AM Winn. The faculty at AM Winn is incredibly dedicated and actively creates a community. The parents/family, working through The Guild or frequent volunteering in the classroom (pre-covid), are very engaged and step up to fill the gaps that invariably exist these days.</p> <p>I stated earlier that an AM Winn closure or change in program would likely result in our family exiting public education. Based on the learning track my son is on, his matriculation to a traditional program will stress him and I will not risk damaging his confidence at this formative stage of his development. Our family can accommodate this change, but many cannot. I respectfully ask that the board carefully consider the benefits of public Waldorf options during their deliberation on budget revisions.</p> <p>Thank You, Jana Bittinger Parent of an AM Winn student</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 5:04:38 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Megan Jacobs
Comment:	<p>This is in regards to the possible closure of AM Winn Elementary. My 5th grader is currently enrolled and has been since Kindergarten. His sister was there K-6th. This school has been a wonderful addition to the surrounding community as well as to other children that come from other schools just because it is a Waldorf school. It breaks my heart to even think about having to change schools as my son would lose friends and connections he's had since he was only 5 years old. Closing the school would bring many hardships for parents and students. Not only losing their amazing teachers but leaving some of the parents wondering how to get their child to and from school and who will supervise their child while they work (ASES program has been a lifesaver for many)... I am hoping/asking that we as a community can come up with an alternative plan to keep AM Winn up and running.</p> <p>Thank You,</p> <p>Megan Jacobs</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 9:13:50 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jenee McClain-battiste
Comment:	<p>My son James is a new student at Alice Birney. Normally he's had trouble adapting to new classes and new Teachers. He used to lack self motivation in school work and in daily life. It's only been a few months since he started at this Waldorf School and I have seen a tremendous change in his initiative and participation in school and at home. We were on the waiting list for a year, and now he's excited to continue his growth with his Teacher and his classmates. This environment is helping him thrive, he cannot wait to be back at school in a classroom setting but during this time of distant learning he's had the tools and the attention that has helped him be successful. Please continue to fund Alice Birney Waldorf school, it is one of few Waldorf schools that are free and accessible to Families like ours. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 9:20:48 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Scarlet Arnold
Comment:	<p>I am a parent of a first grader at AM Winn. We registered our child at this school specifically because of the Waldorf model it operates on. I was grateful to have this as a public choice for my child as I cannot afford the private options but believe in the Waldorf educational model. I had the choice of applying to Alice Birney & AM Winn and chose AM Winn as my first choice. My daughter completed kindergarten there and is almost halfway through her first grade year. Even with the remote setting, I appreciate the instruction that she has been given and the child centered model with which it is presented. Her teacher, Sarah Shaver, has done an amazing job and I have been looking forward to having my child with her as her education continues. Additionally, the art and music instruction has provided my daughter enrichment and joy. I implore the school board to continue funding this school and others like it so that my child and many others can continue to thrive.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 10:26:00 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Amand Moore
Comment:	<p>To whom it May Concern. My children have been enrolled in SCUSD since 2008. We are active participants with our local school and community. Closing AM Winn Public Waldorf would be A HUGE disservice to the students and families. We have already committed to having our kids taught this was up to 8th grade. I currently have a 5th and 6th grader. They both started at AM Winn from Preschool. This learning style has done wonders for my children. It helps the whole child. If A.M. Winn closed or changed to traditional learning style I would pull all 3 of my kids from this school district and enroll them in Folsom Cordova. Closing AM Winn may seem like it would save money but after parents withdraw their kids from the district that will result in LESS money. My kids have built long lasting friendships and connections at that school that they would not have in a traditional learning environment. The Staff at AM Winn has been key in helping my child remain in school and the curriculum has been engaging. My children can garden, knit, and play violin. These skills are not typically learned in most traditional settings. While a lot of schools focus on technology and STEM, we picked this school because its not about technology. They learn and get Intune with nature and the natural world. To launch well rounded young adults in to society we can't keep cutting Art, Music, and Drama while pushing technology driven learning. This school along with Carver is the heart of the Lincoln Village community. Forcing these kids to attend James Marshall or Lincoln would be dangerous. You would have children crossing major roads such as Bradshaw. I do not believe nor do i support closing or changing this school in any way shape or form.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>A Concerned Parent</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 10:55:25 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jessica Shaw
Comment:	<p>I want to address agenda matter 9.1. My name is Jessica Shaw and I am a parent of two children at A.M. Winn. This is our first year at a public Waldorf school. Prior to that my oldest son was in regular public schools here in Sacramento from preschool until 4th grade; and I have never seen this much growth and confidence in his schoolwork and retaining the lessons than this school year alone. And it's only been a few months! I credit that solely to the teachers and Waldorf curriculum. I cried actual tears of joy that my two sons got into this school after the first few weeks of lessons, emotions that I never experienced feeling for my kids in other public schools. My older son is learning how to play the violin, amongst a bevy of other subjects like botany and ancient world history that was never given this much attention otherwise. My younger son, who is in preschool, has sewed and crafted things I never saw offered to my other son during his time in the regular public school system. They're learning things I didn't even learn until college. So to hear that A.M Winn, Alice Birney and George Washington Carver are on the list for possible closures or revisions sickens me to the core. Do you not realize the gift these children are receiving? People pay \$10,000 and upwards for yearly tuition to attend Waldorf schools in this country for a reason. Here we have been given the gift of an expensive education within the public school system and you dare take that away!? My children are flourishing and its absolutely imperative that A.M. Winn remain open and operating as it has been. I urge you to look at other ways to cut the district's budgets without making changes to any of the public Waldorf schools. My two sons, and countless other students lives depend on this decision.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 12:22:29 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Kelly English
Comment:	<p>I am writing in regards to agenda item 9.1, Fiscal Recovery Plan. I am a parent of two children at Alice Birney Waldorf-Inspired School.</p> <p>Alice Birney must remain in operation for the well-being of the children and families it services, as well as the district itself. Alice Birney has proven itself year over year as a model of success for SCUSD in providing high-quality and innovative education for the students in this district. As a public school of choice, there is an equal opportunity to all children within SCUSD to take advantage of this exceptional school. Alice Birney has received national attention and recognition as a model of progressive public education, and putting this school's operations in jeopardy in any way would knock a severe blow in SCUSD's reputation. Jeopardizing the ability of Alice Birney to continue it's 20+ year tradition would profoundly call into question the judgment of the decision-makers within the SCUSD--it is frankly shocking to learn such an idea even being floated.</p> <p>Alice Birney provides public school students of SCUSD a unique opportunity to receive a high-quality, balanced, proven curriculum in a caring and close-knit community. The Alice Birney community is strong and long-standing. Our children, teachers, staff, and parents are fully invested in the mission of Alice Birney and in one another's growth and success. Halting the forward motion of a proven, beloved, and highly popular school within our system would be an ill-advised disaster. In a world of test scores and checked boxes, Alice Birney offers its students a whole-child, developmentally appropriate education that creates life-long learners and balanced young people. The relationships at this school: among students, teachers, admins, staff, and families are deep and long-lasting. The widely-respected successes at Alice Birney attracts families and energy to the district. As a school community, we remain exceedingly proud to operate within a public system--this match of public and progressive education is of paramount importance to many within our school community.</p> <p>We understand the difficulties facing the SCUSD in their ongoing budget crisis. Threatening to close a school site that is a shining star of the district and desired by so many families makes no sense whatsoever, and would reflect very poorly on those in positions of power at SCUSD. Let us work together to make sensible budget decisions. The families of Alice Birney have proven our commitment over more than two decades to find creative solutions to problems--we will work with you now. This school is at the heart of all of our lives. Any proposal to close Alice Birney needs to be taken off the table today.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 2:25:50 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jesse Poquette
Comment:	<p>I am a parent of two students who attend A.M. Winn we are really upset that you are considering increasing class sizes or closing the school. This is the exact opposite of what should be taking place after this pandemic. To increase student and staff safety class sizes (students per teacher) should be made smaller and additional physical space should be added. We moved to this area specifically so our children could attend A.M Winn and have this specialty school experience. Further more students and parents are under a lot of stress due to distance learning and need consistency when returning to school. Please find additional funding to keep or reduce class size and keep our specialty schools open.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jesse Poquette RN, BSN</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 3:22:20 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Kristina Maahs
Comment:	We attend Alice Birney Waldoorf and are from out of district. The fact that the board is considering closing our school as a potential savings is appalling. Most of what makes our school special is funded by parents not the district. Should the school close we will not be attending any other public school in the district and you will lose any funds allocated to my child.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 3:40:35 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Todd Gardner
Comment:	<p>My son, who has been diagnosed to ADHD and Generalized Anxiety Disorder did not fair well in standard public schooling. Math, science, english, history and most subjects are hard for him to concentrate and retain information. He was entered into the lottery last year to get a spot in the 5th grade at AM Winn Waldorf and miraculously was chosen. This has been literally life-changing for him. He is very art-minded and creative and the form of teaching at this school, using art, creative thinking, music and other techniques has completely changed his schoolwork. He is excelling in all subjects and doing amazing. He also loves to go to school now that he gets to do art so often in his learning. His teacher is amazing and so understanding and kind. Being in a smaller classroom, gives the children the ability to be heard without feeling lost and it gives the teacher the chance to really know and understand each individual child's needs. He also loves being near and meeting other children in his class that also have an artistic brain like him. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE NO NOT CLOSE AM WINN or reduce teacher count in order to have more kids per class. This would be very detrimental to him and all the other kids at this school as it is why they are currently thriving. We just were lucky enough to find this school and plan to have him at AM Winn through 8th grade and plan for him to attend George Washington Carver for High School where he can continue to thrive academically. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 4:02:36 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Irene Agra
Comment:	Waldorf inspired schools and any special arts classes should not be closed! It would be detrimental to the community and it's students. Look over the budget again, cut from the top and work your way down.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 4:45:22 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jody Poquette
Comment:	<p>Dear SCUSD Board of Education Members,</p> <p>My husband and I moved our family to Sacramento from 300 miles away last year, specifically so that our two daughters could attend AM Winn Public Waldorf school. This year, they are in 3rd and 6th grades, and they have benefitted tremendously from the unique schooling environment that AM Winn offers. Our children have grown by leaps and bounds due to the benefits of keeping the same teacher (looping) and being able to build that supportive relationship. We have found the teacher, parent, and family community to be very supportive and enriching. It is a special learning environment that fosters social-emotional growth, embraces the whole-child approach, utilizes a slow-tech teaching style, and builds their relationship with nature. Our children have thrived by learning the arts--music (violin and pentatonic flute), painting, crafts, handwork (knitting, crocheting, and sewing). They practice movement, drama, and gardening. There are amazing school community activities including the lantern walk (where the kids make paper mache lanterns and we all walk through the local community at night singing songs), plays, dinners, fundraising events, and Friday Markets where the kids raise fund for their classes by selling goods that they have baked or made. They have had the opportunity to grow and develop with their teachers and peers. They have both been involved in the amazing after school ASES program, which has continued their Waldorf-inspired enrichment. The Waldorf approach is a whole-child approach which ensures that each child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged.</p> <p>The classroom, the teachers, and the entire school environment have been committed to the healthy growth and development of our children.</p> <p>Commitment to community/looping through 8th. The consistent emphasis on building and fostering a healthy community where the children support each other and build each other up has been quite beneficial to the mental health of our children.</p> <p>AM Winn Public Waldorf K-8 sets the standard for comprehensive, sustainable school improvement and provides for long-term student success. We are grateful that Sacramento City Unified School District offers these important, necessary, beneficial and inclusive schools/programs to serve our diverse array of students and to help them grow into the best adults they can be. We cannot say enough good things about AM Winn. Our family would be devastated if this school was taken from us. The other benefit of moving here is that George Washington Carver School of the Arts and Sciences will offer our children the opportunity to continue their growth in a Waldorf high school.</p> <p>Thank you, Jody Poquette</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 6:01:13 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Amanda Paskey
Comment:	<p>My comment concerns item 9.1, specifically the item to close the Waldorf schools in the district. My two children (grades 6 and 2) attend Alice Birney. The education they are receiving is far beyond what I ever dreamed they could get. My kids are being taught critical thinking skills first, before being led through formal reading instruction, for example. This critical thinking basis becomes their automatic first step, rather than the last step, as traditionally taught. As a faculty member at a local community college, a majority of my students are lacking in this critical thinking practice and skill... something my kids will be well versed in by the time they reach college. Additionally, the fact that our teachers loop with the kids, and stay with them from 1st-8th grade has provided my children much needed stability in this very uncertain time of remote instruction. Our teachers know our kids extremely well, and know their strengths and weaknesses on day 1, and were able to craft student-centered, individualized instruction from the moment we left the physical confines of the school campus in March. This looping also provided a secure class and cohort for my almost middle school aged son, to support not only his academic development, but also his social and emotional development during puberty-- which is going to help him feel more self confident during this difficult time and have more self-efficacy for his needs, as he is with a trusted adult. These Waldorf schools have created a community, that supports our (the students and their family) whole self-- our heads, hearts and hands. You must reconsider this item, and keep the 3 Waldorf schools open permanently.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 6:12:17 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Katte Smith
Comment:	<p>Agenda item 9.1</p> <p>My name is Katte Smith, my child attends AM Winn Waldorf.</p> <p>My child attends AM Winn from out of district; I specifically chose this school when my child was in first grade. He is now in the 8th Grade, and I am applying again for an Inter District Permit specifically for the Specialty High School Program at George Washington Carver.</p> <p>Waldorf Education has been a blessing for my child to grow and explore his education. I chose AM Winn precisely because of the ratios, the music and arts programs, and the social-emotional benefits offered by the whole child approach of a Waldorf education. This school and its programs and faculty have made a huge difference for my child, and I would hate to see this special community compromised or harmed due to a lack of vision, creativity, or leadership on the part of the district.</p> <p>There is nothing we as parents wouldn't do, no lengths we wouldn't go, to ensure the best possible education for our children. When we work together as a community, there is nothing we can't achieve.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katte Smith, IBCLC, CCE</p> <p>UC Davis Medical Center</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 6:23:22 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Judith Wolcott
Comment:	<p>As a resident of South Land Park and the grandparent of two students at Alice Birney Waldorf Inspired I am appalled at the idea that the Board would even entertain the thought of closing this gem of the community. If anything, the district should be studying how to convert more schools to provide the best education possible for students. A.B. Winn and Carver also benefit both the students and the community. Families move to this area to get their children into Birney. It is fully supported by its families and provide such measurable and immeasurable educational results to its students that are not available at the other schools in the district. I have tutored at two other district schools and while they have caring teachers the support for the student is a far cry from the looping that is integral to the Waldorf philosophy. I understand difficult decisions need to be made but this idea needs to be removed from consideration immediately. You will not save money because families will leave the district. So it will be on your souls that you personally damaged not only students but every resident in the areas around as families leave and property values go down. You further risk the overall financial health of both the district AND the communities around the schools even further by considering closing or consolidating Alice Birney, A.B. Winn and George Carver.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 6:36:44 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Rachel Darling
Comment:	It is unacceptable that school closures and removing specialty programs are even presented as an option to correct the failure in the school district leadership to balance our budget. Where is all the money that is being saved from not having to pay substitutes? If money needs to be moved around then it needs to be top down. Pay cuts and closures at an administrative level. Stop punishing teachers and students for your inability to manage your responsibilities.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 7:11:56 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Nicole Roberts
Comment:	<p>My comment is in regard to agenda item 9.1, Fiscal Recovery Plan, and the discussion around Budget Reduction Options. I am a parent of two children at Alice Birney Waldorf School and after assessing your proposal, I assume Alice Birney may fall into the “Alternative Ed” line item.</p> <p>The Waldorf curriculum at Alice Birney is truly unique, special and centered on the educating and nourishing of the whole child. Alice Birney holds activates such as cooking, building, music, sculpture, woodworking and handwork as important as math, science, history, geography and literature and the fact that this opportunity is a path provided to everyone in SCUSD who chooses this philosophy is groundbreaking and so enriching for our city, our community and our district. Alice Birney and Sac Unified were actually featured in a Research Brief published by the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education, citing “Birney provides a counterbalance for what is possible to nurture the growth of the whole child” and goes on to say how wonderful it is to see such an approach supported and promoted within the context of a public school district.</p> <p>The relationships cultivated in our school are long term and the “looping” teaching practices teaches students, families and teachers to stick with something even when it’s difficult, to work through problems and utilize creative problem solving. If this school closes lets face it, many families with the resources to do so will turn to Private Waldorf Education. But the majority of families, such as mine, do not have those resources. What will happen to the many families and children who cannot afford to continue the educational philosophy they’ve lived by?</p> <p>I know there is a way to make this work. Speaking as a heavily involved parent, a teacher myself and a member of a very talented group of concerned Alternative Ed parents, there is a solution beyond closing our schools.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 7:27:32 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Melanie Ernould
Comment:	I implore you to not close the Waldorf schools. I am an Alice Birney mom and a local licensed child clinical psychologist. I work with parents all the time who's children are struggling socially and emotionally and thus, academically, who wish they could get in to Alice Birney. These parents and I know how beneficial this school is for these children, and the majority of children, to teach and nurture the whole child. This kind of education will produce well rounded kids who will become well adjusted adults and members of our community. If you close these schools, you will be hurting our community for a very long time.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 7:33:42 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Darra Henigan
Comment:	<p>I cannot imagine a more truly spectacular school than Alice Birney. Both of my children have absolutely flourished academically, emotionally and socially, due to this close knit community and hardworking, dedicated teachers who go above and beyond and get to know our children over eight years together. We sought out Alice Birney over our highly rated neighborhood school because of the Waldorf approach to whole child development and learning and play based approach with emphasis on nature, arts, handwork, music, slow-tech, and gardening. The close bond teachers and students form by staying together and looping for eight years is essential to the children's learning and development. The love of learning and curious minds that my children possess are completely owed to Alice Birney. The district would be doing serious harm to our children to cut close our school, cut funds, make layoffs, combine classes, or discontinue any of our schools programs. Our specialty programs are funded by us parents. Our family would most likely leave the district altogether if our school was closed or staff and programs cut. Please do not close our school, lay-off our dedicated and beloved teachers and staff or cut out programs. You would be causing irreparable damage to our children and community.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 7:56:17 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Kathy Bradshaw
Comment:	I heard that the district was considering closing Alice Birney Waldorf Methods. This would be outrageous, as it is a school with a waiting list and one of the only public Waldorf schools in the nation. As parents, we raise the funds for the specialty programs, and are all very involved. The teachers and principal of the school have worked for decades to build up this school, and it has been cited by Stanford studies as a beacon for other districts who would like to make a Waldorf education accessible to people of all incomes. Please don't even consider this disastrous idea!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 8:12:29 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sara Escamilla
Comment:	Our children deserve to attend their school just as all children deserve school. We fund raise for additional costs needed for our school to function as a waldorf. Do not close waldorf schools. It will not have a significant impact on overall budget either.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 8:53:30 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sara Escamilla
Comment:	Do not close public waldorf School. We attend scusd specifically for public waldorf education. We fund raiser for our specialty programs.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 9:18:42 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Tara Thronson
Comment:	<p>Tonight we face our well-documented structural deficit. If it remains unaddressed, we are on a path to state receivership. If this happens, we all lose - the district, teachers, unions, business community, parents, and most of all our students.</p> <p>We have reached the point in the process where hard decisions must be made. We can't let hard decisions and adult disagreements harm the education of thousands of students. I recognize there will be cuts. 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. Now is the time to do all you can to reduce our structural deficit and minimize the impacts to students - both with the decisions before you today, and with negotiated savings.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 9:19:05 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Michael Wlosek
Comment:	As a parent of a first grader at Alice Birney we would be devastated if SCUSD chooses to close the waldorf program. It's a special program that could serve as a model for the rest of the district. Our school is full of dedicated parents and teachers who are doing an exceptional job of inspiring young inquisitive, engaged learners. Please find another way to balance the budget.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 9:19:11 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sam Skow
Comment:	<p>Sam Skow, A.M. Winn parent</p> <p>My child attends 3rd grade at A.M. Winn. Although we live about ½ hour away, we commute specifically to Winn for the benefits of a Waldorf-inspired public education that only exists in the SCUSD. One long-standing criticism of Waldorf education has been its lack of accessibility, with the costs of private tuition presenting a major obstacle for most families. Public Waldorf programs are nothing short of revolutionary, and the SCUSD should be commended for establishing these wonderful programs in its jurisdiction. It would be a shame for these beneficial curricula to be damaged or destroyed by a short-sighted bid for financial solvency without exhausting all other avenues.</p> <p>Our family was drawn to Waldorf for its embrace of the “whole child,” but we have also joined a community that indeed nourishes the “whole family.” In a time of deep uncertainty, isolation, and upheaval, the A.M. Winn community fosters a village, where we are all connected by our shared commitment to our children. This is reflected by the high rate of volunteerism among parents and guardians as well as the low student turnover. Our daughter excels in this student-centered environment, where she is encouraged to learn at her own pace and has developed a profoundly supportive relationship with her peers and her teacher, who she has been with since 1st grade.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 9:24:01 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	R Esc
Comment:	<p>I'm writing to request that you do NOT vote to close Alice Birney Waldorf. We attend scusd specifically for this public waldorf education. Our school raises funds for our specialty programs. We are active in our community. The schools looping and consistent teachers are also helping our kids get through this pandemic and supporting their mental health.</p> <p>Sara Escamilla</p> <p>Parent</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 9:25:35 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Gina Kay
Comment:	<p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>It is with great concern and alarm that I learn of the proposed budget cuts to Waldorf schools, VAPA and others Sac City Unified programs. Before noting those concerns, I must say that stating cuts are necessary by July 2021 – when the current state of the school district is unknown is concerning.</p> <p>Weren't there unexpected savings due to the school sites closing last spring? Isn't it likely that there will also be savings due the sites closed this fall and potentially next spring as well? Unfortunately, the district does not have a good track record of providing sound budget estimates. The previous calls for cuts were not warranted once the accounting error, of not including several schools in the budget analysis, was discovered. In terms of the \$4.941 million proposed cuts to the special programs such as Safe Schools, Social Emotional Learning, Alternative Education, and the rest listed, are short sighted and disastrous.</p> <p>Speaking from experience with Alice Birney public Waldorf, there are important unique benefits from a public Waldorf education – including the opportunity for looping, when the same children and teacher are together from first through eighth grade. I have seen my sons' self-confidence develop and flourish as a result of this educational experience. Music, art, plays and other activities support and encourage artistic expression and confidence building. These programs are supported through fundraising – not the district - and the benefits are shared by all of the student in the school by virtue of attending the school. Without this option, the district would likely lose students to homeschooling or schools outside of the district. For many, having a Waldorf option makes public school possible.</p> <p>A Stanford Study titled “Growing a Waldorf-Inspired Approach in a Public School District (https://edpolicy.stanford.edu/library/publications/1386) focused on Alice Birney and highlights the benefits of the school's comprehensive student development approach which includes social-emotional, physical and artistic development – all of which profoundly shape the students in a positive way as they develop into adults. Having a Waldorf high school in the district is important to allow students to continue or join this alternative educational approach in the upper grades. Saving this school is warranted to ensure the Waldorf opportunities continue for families in our district and for all the hard work and effort to get to this point – it would be a devastating blow to lose the only public Waldorf high school.</p> <p>Additionally, I have a son is in the VAPA program and it would be devastating if this program / music teachers were cut. When times are as challenging as they are, to take away programs (arts and music) that are healthy outlets for children is not the right approach.</p> <p>Please go back to the drawing board and reassess the situation – there must be better solutions. Perhaps start by considering the salary of the superintendent?</p> <p>Sincerely, Gina Kay - mother of 2 SCUSD children</p>

--	--

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 9:39:36 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Ariele Rodriguez
Comment:	<p>Specific to the prospect of closing specialty schools such as public Waldorf in a bid to save money, I implore the district to reach out to attending families to ask how they would respond. If public Waldorf was not available, my family would either transition to homeschooling or private Waldorf, and I suspect that will not be uncommon in that group. Rather than save money by closing beloved specialty schools, I believe the district would lose students and thus funding. Additionally, and specifically pertaining to public Waldorf, many of the things that make our schools special such as art, practical arts, handwork, and eurhythmy are funded by the Parent Guild and not the district. Finally, given the mile long waitlist at Alice Birney EK-8, there is no shortage of interest in and dedication to this style of learning. If anything, the district might consider incorporating Waldorf-inspired programs into other Sacramento schools.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 9:44:50 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Adrienne Eimers
Comment:	My child attends Carver. They have found the small school very accepting, understanding and accommodating of them as being LGBTQ. Should Carver close our only option is to home school.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 10:05:46 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Stefani Danch
Comment:	<p>I have two children who attend Alice Birney elementary. Alice Birney is a school that honors and speaks to the whole child. As parents, we believe that the pressures put on children in traditional schools is counter productive and can lead a child to lose their innate passion for learning. The Waldorf approach creates a safe environment for exploration and allows the child to develop at a healthier, more balanced pace. We believe that the emphasis Alice Birney puts on developing students' creativity, their empathy and their connection with nature is exactly what today's children need. Waldorf education incorporates the arts as an integral part of learning in all subjects and gives students opportunities to learn from first hand observations and experiences whenever possible. The Waldorf approach also gives students regular opportunities to connect with nature through gardening, nature walks, field trips etc. We believe that Waldorf Education does a great job of developing students who are life long learners and well rounded, ethical people. We feel lucky and immensely grateful to have a Waldorf inspired public school available for our children.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 10:54:42 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	justine hearn
Comment:	<p>It has been brought to my attention that a list of potential school closures and/or staff reductions has been created, and that my child's school is included on this list. We considered many options when we began our school search, both private and within SCUSD, and ultimately chose A.M. Winn. We recognized the value of a Waldorf education with its focus on whole-child development, commitment to the arts and incorporation of the natural world, nurturing relationships between teachers and students by "looping" (the teacher staying with a class over a number of years), and support of curiosity-led, independent learning. The benefits of a Waldorf education are well-documented (notably in a Stanford study that included A.M. Winn and the District's other public Waldorf school, Alice Birney) and sought to be replicated. We chose A.M. Winn for all of these reasons, and particularly because it is a Title 1 public Waldorf school (the first in the nation!) that celebrates its diversity and makes deliberate efforts to be inclusive. One criticism of Waldorf education is its lack of accessibility, as private Waldorf school tuition is prohibitive for most families. Public Waldorf offerings, therefore, are nothing short of revolutionary; our school provides a robust, well-rounded education to students who would otherwise not be able to access it. SCUSD is to be commended for being a national leader in seeking equity in educational offerings. Although I am a booster of my child's school, I feel strongly that NONE of our City's schools' diverse educational offerings should be closed. It would be a disservice to the Sacramento community to reduce public school options in an attempt to address the District's budget crisis without exhausting all other possible avenues. In a time of deep division and uncertainty, our school fosters a community connected by our shared commitment to doing what's best for our children. This is reflected in the high rate of volunteerism amongst parents, and in low student turnover. It is demonstrated in the relationship between the A.M. Winn community and the local neighborhood group (It Takes a Lincoln Village). It is shown in the growing awareness in the global Waldorf community through programs like The Families Project, which arose as a response to schools shifting to distance learning last Spring. A.M. Winn, like so many schools, is more than a school; it is an extended family!</p> <p>In addition to potentially displacing hundreds or thousands of students during a time when so many face disorientating uncertainty, school closures risk potentially permanently losing students as their families seek stability and education elsewhere. This may also be the case if schools are forced to increase class sizes or eliminate teaching positions; families who are able to will seek other options outside of the District, while those with less mobility and resources will suffer with decreased educational quality.</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 and closures that will have long-lasting impacts on our entire City.</p>

	Thank you for your time.
--	--------------------------

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 11:14:15 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jennifer Nelson
Comment:	Please do not cut the AP classes and exams. For high school kids with a goal to attend a traditional four year university, AP classes and exams are a way to prepare for college, excel, be competitive with applicants from better-funded school districts/high schools, and mitigate the high costs of universities. By SCUSD covering the fee and providing the classes, low and middle income families, foster youth, and disadvantaged communities are better served and given a tremendous gift for the future. The district MUST do a better job to serve GATE-identified kids at ALL high schools and not just the kids at West Campus. If not, kids will be left behind and more financially secure families will continue to jump ship for private, San Juan and Elk Grove Unified schools.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 12:22:14 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Alison French-Tubo
Comment:	<p>Supt. Aguilar and Board Members, I know that all of you understand that the district’s financial situation is like a railroad train that has been moving along on rickety track. It’s a less-than-ideal situation that has been survivable as long as one-time funds and reserves keep being used to replace railroad ties and re-connect rails, but this track has been getting worn down for a long time, and derailment--otherwise known as losing local control and increasing indebtedness by taking a loan from the state to meet minimum reserve requirements--is more and more likely. Sure, it’s true that some years that fewer ties have been needed than predicted or that the costs of repairs have been less than budgeted, but the fact that the annual costs exceed the annual income has not changed. I hope the incoming board members understand this too, because otherwise they are going to be in the unfortunate position of thinking their role is to crack champagne open to christen new locomotives when really it’s their responsibility to make the tough decisions to prevent the train from coming off the track.</p> <p>District labor partners, please don’t be side-tracked by arguments about whether we are approaching derailment at 25, 50 or 150 miles per hour--whether it took place in 2019 or it takes place in 2021 or 2023 or 2025, a lot of people will be hurt.</p> <p>Parents who have the means to leave the district, please don't tell us you are thinking of buying a ticket on another train. Instead, please use your voices to commit to the importance of public education to our community. Those living in a comfortable bubble may feel that struggles to access quality education won't affect anyone they know, but over 70% of our district's students live in low-income households--even if you think you don't know anyone in that position, think again, because according to the California dashboard, only a handful of our schools have a low-income percentage of less than 20%.</p> <p>Community members, please continue to acknowledge that even if you don’t currently have students on the SCUSD train, a rickety track does not attract new businesses, increase business retention, or increase property values.</p> <p>Whatever our opinions of the train journey so far, we are all going to find that the next part is very difficult. Whether it's everyone pulling together or every faction fighting for themselves, sooner or later the amount the district spends each year is going to change. Lack of equity is another long-standing problem in our district, and the longer we take to figure out the fiscal solution, the longer we are distracted from correcting and preventing inequities.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 12:24:09 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Josefina Cruz
Comment:	<p>AGENDA ITEM 9.1 From: Josefina & Moses Rosas Parents of: Benjamin Rosas -7th Grade Raquel Rosas - 4th Grade Jozelle Rosas - 3rd Grade School: A.M. Winn Dear Board Members of the SCUSD, It is today that I come to you with a deep concern and I urge you to reconsider in keeping our A.M. Winn School available and open to my children and to our Sacramento Community. We understand we are living uncertain times; these uncertain times have not been any easier for our children either, and closing the school will not make the situation any easier but on the contrary, it will affect them more, it will affect the future of our A.M. Winn children, the most vulnerable members of our community. The closure of the school will alter the education my children are receiving and therefore their future. I come to you to voice out the reasons why A.M. Winn a Waldorf teaching system should remain open: My family found in A.M. Winn a place where my children can fully develop not only academically but their persona as whole; we love to see the nourishment of their minds and hearts they receive every day by the staff of A.M. Winn, and by their classmates. A.M. Winn has become an extension of our family that we can't imagine it disappear. The Waldorf system creates a deep bonding amongst the children and their teachers since they remain together from 1st grade all the way through 8th grade. Their teachers are not just another class period teacher, they are teachers who love them, and teachers who are committed to them. The brake of this bond, if the school is to be closed, will injured many of these children specially those that have bonded over 3 years with the same teacher and classmate friends (brothers and sisters). A.M. Winn is the reason we relocated to the Sacramento county; for over a year we were driving our kids to school from Herald California to the A.M. Winn Campus in Sacramento until we were able to relocate here. This Waldorf system as in danger of extinction as there is only a handful of these in the state of California; I encourage you to keep it a live in our community. When we first found out about the opening of the school by SCUSD, we didn't care of moving mountains to be able to bring our kids to this school and just like us there are several families that have made Sacramento their community because of this school. We can't imagine enrolling our children in another school as the Waldorf education system is an holistic approach to education that no other pedagogy embodies and that is in perfect alignment with our family values. Board Members of the SCUSD, I encourage you, and urge you to keep A.M. Winn a Waldorf-Inspired School opened. Sincerely yours, Josefina & Moses Rosas Parents at A.M. Winn Elementary School</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 12:47:29 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sharon Cordell
Comment:	The specialty programs provided at Alice Birney Waldorf Inspired Elementary school are funded by the Parents. These programs help develop the child's physical and mental growth. Programs such as woodworking and gardening not only teach a child a new skill they are fun and provide confidence. It exposes the child to a new experience that they would otherwise not receive at a standard public school. Closing the school and sending pupils off to another crowded school would be a great loss. Students at A.B. learn differently and loop(stay with same teacher) with their beloved teacher their whole academic career. Standardized public school curriculum with be alien to our kids and cause an even more backslide in their education than distance learn. Please find another way to your fiscal problems. Don't punish the kids at any of these schools and crush their futures.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 7:29:47 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Kara Synhorst
Comment:	<p>Good evening. I would like to help solve the district's fiscal problems. First, since the district spends approximately \$11 million on books and supplies in a normal year, perhaps they should take the remaining \$90 million from that budget and spread it around to help cover the deficit. Second, according to FCMAT and the Bee, the district has roughly 550 vacant positions, half or more of which they do not intend to fill. Why not close those positions? And the next time the teachers union offers to save you \$12 million via changes to their health care plan, maybe take that offer.</p> <p>Every year, we are told tearfully from this dais that well-loved programs are on the chopping block, and we simply MUST take away teachers' health care lest we are taken over by the state. Then every year, miraculously, you save the programs, and we are grateful for your heroism -- but the looming specter of takeover never recedes.</p> <p>Just, like, take FCMAT's advice about position control, stop hiding money in the books and supplies budget, and stop yanking parents' chains about music, pre-school, and special programs.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 7:54:25 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Marie Perez
Comment:	<p>My husband and I have 5 children. For the most part our children have attended a Parochial school, until we discovered George Washington Carver High School for our child who was in special education. She was a little different and was at great risk for being bullied. At George Washington Carver she was met with many kind peers. The staff encouraged creativity and a friendly environment. It was quite a drive for us as we live in South Sacramento. However, it was worth the drive. The education our daughter received was deeply inspiring. My husband and I were so impressed with George Washington Carver that we toured AM Winn for our youngest child to attend kindergarten-on. We fell in love with AM Winn and made the choice to put our youngest in public Waldorf over Catholic school. Our son was accepted into Alice Birney which was the closer school to our home. Had he not been accepted there- we would have made the drive to AM Winn. We love all 3 of the public Waldorf schools. We love the whole concept of Waldorf education. As parents, we raise funds for each grade and also for the school as a whole in order to pay for our specialty teachers and special supplies. Our families are so committed to Waldorf education that we fully participate in volunteering and fundraising. Many parents today are making healthy, organic choices for their families. Please dont take away any of our 3 wonderful Waldorf schools. If our child's school were to close down, we would return to private school and at this point, we are even open to homeschooling our child since we have been doing that for the last year except our son can't wait to get back to "in school" learning at his beloved Waldorf school. When the pandemic closed our schools, many children's 1st reaction was "happy to stay home". Our Waldorf students, however, were crying because they wanted to be at school. Why would anyone suggest closing schools that actually inspire children to love learning? -Mr. & Mrs. Perez</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 8:17:29 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Judy Turner
Comment:	If ever there should be a surplus in the budget for our schools, it should be now. Distance Learning is in place which prevents the use of the school, cafeteria, supplies, field trips, and a mountain of other costs of running a thriving school. I object to and question any closing or reducing of personnel or any other cost cutting effort when there should be an abundance of budget funds available due to these distance learning restrictions. I believe an audit is called for as there must be serious accounting mismanagement.

Speaking as: Grandparent/volunteer

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 9:02:17 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Emili Danz
Comment:	<p>The arts are not optional. And they should not be under consideration during budget cuts anymore than math or english should be. The arts are essential. They are the “secret sauce” to get kids to show up for school, engage in learning, and build the essential life skills that are necessary for youth to succeed in our future workforce. Perhaps most importantly, the arts teaches our students empathy and understanding, acceptance and kindness. And now, more than ever in our world, we need this. We need to be teaching our children to be kind, creative, and open-minded adults; because otherwise, those “core” subjects of math and english, science and social studies, will not be used to their fullest potential.</p> <p>For many students, art is where students find their voice - whether it be through movement, a brush stroke or the strumming of strings. It’s where students learn that hard work can be SO rewarding -- as they take a triumphant bow in front of an applauding audience. Art is where students find the confidence to take risks...and fail. And discover that failure should not be feared but celebrated as it is a necessary part of the creative process.</p> <p>Our children, like us, have felt a lot of loss and uncertainty these past months and for many of them, art is the only thing that keeps them going. It is their only outlet for self-expression and a reminder that there is still great beauty and hope in this world.</p> <p>The fact that you are even considering a cut to your VAPA department sends a message to your students that you don’t value what matters most to them. Cutting the arts in SCUSD would take away students’ voices, their safe spaces to explore and take risks, and it would take away the best chance we have to ensure that our children grow up to be empathetic, innovative and compassionate leaders. Because that is what our world needs most right now and what I know SCUSD wants for their students.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 9:06:05 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Lauren Saldivar
Comment:	My child is an 8th grade student at AM Winn which his sister now attends 3rd grade as well. He will be transferring to Carver High School next year which is our only SCUSD high school choice. He has been in the Waldorf system at AM Winn since 2nd grade and if Carver is not an option we will be leaving SCUSD and transferring to private homeschooling as an alternative.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 9:10:29 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Judy Turner
Comment:	<p>As a grandmother of 4 who attend Alice Birney and A.M. Winn, I also volunteer and have been a volunteer even before my grandchildren attended school. My volunteering began approximately 7 years ago when I retired as an artist/graphic designer/website designer. When I started volunteering at Alice Birney in kindergarten I was stuck by the rich, hands-on method of teaching children. Instead of force feeding them information at the tender age of 4/5 we were instructed as volunteers to instead open the child's mind to curiosity. Instead of telling them information, we asked them what they thought and why they thought it. Little by little we watered and fertilized their little minds to grow and develop into people who LOVE to learn. The Waldorf Method of teaching has completely paid off for my grandchildren.</p> <p>With all that said, I object to any and all discussion of decreasing funding, cutting arts programs, closing of schools, etc. for some arbitrary budget goal. Waldorf is a treasure that pays off by leaving no student behind. Everyone, from the most astute to the special-needs grows to become a calm, emotionally stable person who feels his/her place in the world. It is the Gold Standard in education because it focuses on the whole child: mind, body and spirit, while giving them social skills, work ethic, conflict resolution, and a lust for learning.</p> <p>And finally, I object to putting a dollar value on this supreme education when there should definitely be a surplus of funds this year due Covid and our distance learning measures. I believe an Audit must be performed to allay any questions about funds mismanagement.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration to my concerns.</p>

Speaking as: Grandmother/School volunteer

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 9:32:50 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Celina Barrameda
Comment:	Our family chose Alice Birney Waldorf for many reasons, one being the balance of curriculum and how the whole child is educated, from their heart to their hands to their head to the nature around us. The greatest gift is being given the opportunity for a Waldorf education as a public school. We are confident that each family in this community is capable of providing support in any way they can.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 9:40:20 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Celina Barrameda
Comment:	Our family chose Alice Birney Waldorf for many reasons, one being the balance of curriculum and how the whole child is educated, from their heart to their hands to their head to the nature around us. The greatest gift is being given the opportunity for a Waldorf education as a public school. We are confident that each family in this community is capable of providing support in any way they can.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 9:41:51 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Christine Olmsted
Comment:	<p>This comment is in regard to the suggested closing of the three Waldorf schools in our district. I have been involved with this community for 15 years - first as a parent and now as a teacher at Alice Birney. Waldorf curriculum is based in the belief that education should be about the whole child.</p> <p>We are hearing in current research (e.g. Linda Darling Hammond) that this is the approach that is necessary to best educate children. Their mind, bodies and hearts are all equally important in the educational process. Waldorf curriculum teaches academics using lessons that often incorporate art and movement to engage the different learning modalities of a diverse student population. Connecting children to academics through their senses and feeling life is important to the task of making them curious, life long learners - the goal of most teachers. We are actually engaging students in the way research is suggesting students be engaged to accomplish this. Closing these alternative schools in this time when they are needed most would be a travesty. Instead, we should be adopting some of their methods to other schools. To gauge the success of a school only in monetary terms is not staying current with what is needed to educate the students of Sacramento - academic approaches that consider the whole child.</p> <p>Thank you, Christine Olmsted</p> <p>Parent and teacher</p>

Speaking as: Parent and Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 9:54:48 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Lana Marin
Comment:	<p>I am an alumni of John Morse Public Waldorf school, Sacramento's first public Waldorf school, and my two children are current students at Alice Birney Public Waldorf school. I have witnessed many former public Waldorf students go on to be incredible citizens of the community, from entrepreneurs and educators, to scientists, activists, caregivers, public servants and everything in between. Public Waldorf education will be more vital than ever as the world continues to change rapidly in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Waldorf educated students develop creativity and problem solving skills that will give them an advantage in a rapidly changing world. Additionally, specialty programs such as art and music, which are funded entirely by parent contributions, contribute to a well-rounded education and further the development of important social-emotional development. In my experience, public Waldorf educated students possess exceptional emotional intelligence and superior social skills, all which will further aid them as they grow up into a rapidly evolving and increasingly unstable world. Please consider that public Waldorf education is absolutely vital in developing citizens who can tackle the challenges we now face in this era. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 9:57:53 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Breanna Chavez
Comment:	Waldorf education changed my life for the better. There are so many things I got to do and learn that a lot of my friends didn't get to experience. I always talk about how I got to play so many instruments, cook, knit, garden & a lot of those things helped me today in life. I teach so many of my friends with kids things I learned when I was young and they love it. Please do not make cuts our kids need more Waldorf education.

Speaking as: Previous student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 10:07:51 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Gus Bailey
Comment:	<p>I have been going to A.M Winn for 8 years! And honestly it's like my home away from home.</p> <p>Why I think it's important to keep my class and my teacher Mrs. Rede, is because Mrs. Rede has really helped me through all the tough times in school. And my friends are like my second family, some of them like Roman and Micaela I have known for 7 or 8 years.</p> <p>Why I think it's important to go to a waldorf school is because I have some stress issues and patience is not my strong suit, and because it's waldorf it doesn't have as much work time as non-waldorf schools. So when I am feeling stressed it really helps me to take a walk or sometimes we are in recess so I can go and relieve that stress by shooting hoops.</p> <p>I think A.M Winn is a great school also because during covid-19 Mrs. Rede hasn't given me too much work, because that would just be something else to get done.</p> <p>THANK YOU A.M WINN</p> <p>-Gus A. Bailey</p>

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 10:15:51 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Ashley Simmons
Comment:	<p>The idea of cutting music programs, or anything from our kids is NOT the right solution. To continue to cut programs for our schools is to wipe out what this whole department/board is about – OUR CHILDREN. You should be focused on what else you can GIVE them, not what else you can take away. I have also heard it mentioned that there is talk of closing AM Winn, Carver and Birney- which is NOT the answer to your problem. This is the only alternative to learning that our children have. Ask yourself, and each board member on the panel how they learn best - Whether it is auditory, kinesthetic, or visual. I can guarantee that each of you learn differently and the way you learn best will change depending on the subject and your familiarity with it. So if adults learn differently, then understand that our kids do too, so they need and deserve the alternative education options that is Waldorf!</p> <p>I would also recommend that you take notice that SCUSD already has an issue with diversity and not serving the black and brown population, and is currently trying to treat the rampant disciplinary problem of unfair treatment of various ethnicities and is in need of positions to support the mental health of our students. SCUSD is struggling across the board, yet you have not looked at the successes that have taken place at the Waldorf Schools. AM Winn helped to identify the mental health concerns that lead to the diagnosis of my daughters adjustment disorder. If you do away with AM Winn and Carver my daughters school would be Abe Lincoln which has a 11% suspension rate for black students, whcih only make up 14% of the school. AM Winn has a 0% suspension rate for the 11% population of black students. Shutting down schools and forcing kids into some of your other schools imperils black youth at an early age and will harm their chances at long term success. We need MORE SUPPORT at schools to help this demographic, we NEED the WALDORF OPTION, and we NEED to maintain the programs like music.</p> <p>My daughter began her school years with Fortune Schools, because I wanted her to be in a school that was just as diverse as she was and that focused on the success of colored students. I refused to put her at SCUSD schools that would just let her be a number or would only teach her to regurgitate information. Unfortunately, Fortune wanted children to be robotic college students at the age of 6, which began to kill her spirit, especially when the teacher would berate her and drive her under her desk in tears if she did not do something right. She transferred to a school in Elk Grove that offered so many activities (art, coding, etc) but colored students were overlooked and it was a very sink or swim environment. A month later We bought our home in Rancho Cordova just 1 block from AM Winn, a public Waldorf school in SCUSD that I had never heard of in my years of living in Sacramento, and had never heard of Waldorf. I applied for Winn after</p>

researching the curriculum and learning model. She attended Abraham Lincoln for a few short weeks, where I noticed how underserved this school was, before being accepted to AM Winn. I give you this timeline so that you understand the changes she has gone through and how many schools failed to reach her or actually teach her in a way that spoke to her interests, culture, passions etc. She was diagnosed with an adjustment disorder, and AM was able to help identify her problem areas and work with her.

Her favorite part of the transition was Mrs. Bailey, the gardening teacher who made nature, biology and science so much fun. Her Teacher Mrs Rede has created such a bond with her and transitions up with the children so she knows exactly how to reach her and can easily identify when she is struggling or losing confidence, and teaches her confidence as the kids work in their main lesson books to illustrate their lessons. The Handwork and movement teacher lead the kids in a rhythm and flow with their full body. At this school every child learns an instrument each year, and not only does my daughter play the violin, but can play the piano by ear, and is learning guitar because of the interest that this teacher has grown in her. All of these programs are therapeutic to the child, and educational at the same time. ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE PART OF THE CURRICULUM FOR EVERY CHILD AND TIE INTO TEACHING THE FULL CHILD. ALL ACTIVITIES RELATE TO A LESSON WHETHER IT IS SCIENCE, MATH, WRITING, ETC. I watched my daughter blossom and become a kid again, and truly find herself and her passions, with a teacher that teaches her to explore the world around her and her interests, and friends that grow with her through the years. My daughter would not have received the level of care and concern if she was lost in the shuffle of Abe Lincoln or any other school in SCUSD. Looping the teacher up with the child ensures they have someone invested in their success and well being and that they are not just passed on to the next grade like in other schools (much like my step son is experiencing in Golden Empire). Our black and brown students need schools with these alternatives and with this success model that we are seeing with our black and brown students at Winn.

AM Winn is not a technology based school like other schools, we do not operate from text books like other schools. This model was the reason for their success in transitioning to distance learning, and the reason why the waldorf schools developed the Families Project for hands on learning, which became a model for other schools. Our funding goes to our programs and classes for the children for actual hands on learning. Cutting funding for any of our positions means we lose a class or we lose one of these necessities to our curriculum. Our focus is on teaching the child, not teaching to a test so we will not score high on your tests by state measures, but we are growing great human beings that are able to nurture and give back to society, with healthy emotions, and loving hearts, with creativity and the ability to think for themselves logically and meaningfully. To lose the music program, or any additional programs means our kids are left with only the basic curriculum and nothing else. We lost spanish a few years ago and have never regained the funds to bring it back. We were at risk of losing the handwork program last year, but our awesome parents and Guild banded together to raise the funds. We have nearly lost gardening which our garden teacher's amazing husband put together a fundraiser to raise the funds to save that program. This might sound like extra activities to you, but these programs are necessary to reach kids on different levels, it helps with math, comprehension, science, lifeskills, etc. It gives a full hands on learning to make information accessible to the students that learn through audio, visual, or kinesthetically. I

highly recommend that your research the waldorf curriculum and understand what the real effects are before you cut any programs.

BEFORE YOU CONSIDER CLOSING A SCHOOL, OR CUTTING A PROGRAM I WOULD MUCH RATHER YOU CONSIDER GIVING UP SCHOOLS TO SURROUNDING DISTRICTS. ABE LINCOLN, CARVER AND WINN SIT ON THE BOARDER OF RANCHO CORDOVA BUT ARE ASSIGNED TO SCUSD. Our tax dollars go to FCUSD but our kids are subject to the management of SCUSD. If you can not afford to take care of our students look into how much you would save by giving up the schools to someone else so that our students still have this option for education, and redraw the boarders.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 10:21:24 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Davy Bui
Comment:	<p>I am deeply concerned to hear that SCUSD is considering scaling back & possibly even closing its Waldorf program. SCUSD's Waldorf schools are a source of pride; they are bold, necessary steps to match our education system with the demands of the 21st century. In today's creative/knowledge-based economy, a curriculum geared toward holistic education better prepares our children than the traditional 3R's left-brained, teach-to-the-test model. The Waldorf focus on building empathy will be crucial in a society going through demographic and cultural upheaval, not to mention the challenges we all face as climate change forces us to address our very way of life.</p> <p>I want to speak specifically about our child's school, A.M. Winn. I spent my childhood in a range of Sacramento public/private schools, from Fairbanks Elementary "in the hood" to Jesuit High School. As a person of color, I've experienced first-hand how schools got more exclusive & "white" as they got "better", with all the issues that entails. There's a whole slew of socio-economic & racial considerations if we want to send our child to a good school.</p> <p>So I was amazed upon my visit to A.M. Winn to encounter a public school providing historically exclusive curriculum to diverse & disenfranchised populations. We were proud to list A.M. Winn as our 1st-choice school even though we live closer to Birney. If we as a people are serious about addressing inequality, then schools like A.M. Winn are at the front line, providing equal access opportunity to everyone, not just those who can afford it.</p> <p>We believe in public education. We believe kids are best served by attending schools with diversity across socio-economic & racial lines. But we can't risk our child's future if A.M. Winn devolves into what I experienced in less-affluent area schools.</p> <p>Cutting or closing the Waldorf schools now would be disastrous. It would disrupt & displace thousands of children who've already had to adjust so much during this pandemic. It would exclude & disenfranchise so many families seeking affordable access to a different education approach. It would reinforce the economic and racial inequalities during a pandemic where the less-fortunate have already fallen more behind.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 10:22:28 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jason Roberts
Comment:	<p>I am writing in regard to agenda item 9.1, which implies potential closure of some schools in the district. I understand that the district and the State face an unprecedented budget crisis, and I understand the need to make difficult budgetary choices. However, school closures should not be included in those decisions. My children attend Alice Birney, which likely falls under the “alternative education” designation. Alice Birney and other Waldorf-inspired schools offer rich and equity-driven educational programs, including arts programs discontinued by many other schools. As such, Alice Birney continues to be a highly regarded and sought-after school, which is made clear by its continued, lengthy waiting list. In fact, in 2015, Stanford researcher Linda Darling Hamilton’s study of Alice Birney showed how the school effectively “addresses students’ academic, social, emotional, physical, and creative development” and that the district “supports alternative models of education while working to ensure equitable access to a high quality education for all its students.” Alice Birney is a model school, one the district should continue to support rather than consider expendable.</p> <p>It is unethical during a pandemic to close any schools and further burden families. Hopefully, yesterday’s LAO report of an unexpected budget surplus for the State will alleviate this issue.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 10:24:16 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sara Bailey
Comment:	<p>My name is Sara Bailey and I am the parent of two children attending AM Winn Public Waldorf. It has come to my attention that the district has placed our school on the list of potential schools/programs/positions that could be cut. AM Winn is the only Title 1 Public Waldorf School in the nation. We transferred to SCUSD to enroll in AM Winn 8 years ago, during its 2nd year transitioning to a public Waldorf school. This transition happened after the district placed Winn on a list of schools slated to be shut down as a means to make cuts in the district budget. The neighborhood and school community did not let that happen. They fought for the school to stay open to serve their families and helped create the plan to transition to a Waldorf school. Our family chose AM Winn Public Waldorf because it puts into practice many of the values and ideologies SCUSD claims to uphold. I see the word access and equity used frequently in letters I receive from the leadership at SCUSD. AM Winn, as a Title 1 Public Waldorf school, provides access to a Waldorf education that many families in our district, including mine, couldn't afford if we had to go outside of a public-school setting. Waldorf education provides access to music, arts, handwork, life skills, nature, gardening, and so many rich, hands on experiential means for students to access learning, all the while teaching to the "whole child". This is equity in practice as opposed to equity as platitudes. I implore the leadership of SCUSD to put into practice the ideals and values of equity you so often claim is at the heart of your mission. Show us that access and equity mean something to you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 10:47:36 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Ashley Simmona
Comment:	<p>The idea of cutting music programs, or anything from our kids is NOT the right solution. To continue to cut programs for our schools is to wipe out what this whole department/board is about – OUR CHILDREN. You should be focused on what else you can GIVE them, not what else you can take away. I have also heard it mentioned that there is talk of closing AM Winn, Carver and Birney- which is NOT the answer to your problem. This is the only alternative to learning that our children have. Ask yourself, and each board member on the panel how they learn best - Whether it is auditory, kinesthetic, or visual. I can guarantee that each of you learn differently and the way you learn best will change depending on the subject and your familiarity with it. So if adults learn differently, then understand that our kids do too, so they need and deserve the alternative education options that is Waldorf!</p> <p>I would also recommend that you take notice that SCUSD already has an issue with diversity and not serving the black and brown population, and is currently trying to treat the rampant disciplinary problem of unfair treatment of various ethnicities and is in need of positions to support the mental health of our students. SCUSD is struggling across the board, yet you have not looked at the successes that have taken place at the Waldorf Schools. AM Winn helped to identify the mental health concerns that lead to the diagnosis of my daughters adjustment disorder. If you do away with AM Winn and Carver my daughters school would be Abe Lincoln which has a 11% suspension rate for black students, whcih only make up 14% of the school. AM Winn has a 0% suspension rate for the 11% population of black students. Shutting down schools and forcing kids into some of your other schools imperils black youth at an early age and will harm their chances at long term success. We need MORE SUPPORT at schools to help this demographic, we NEED the WALDORF OPTION, and we NEED to maintain the programs like music.</p> <p>My daughter began her school years with Fortune Schools, because I wanted her to be in a school that was just as diverse as she was and that focused on the success of colored students. I refused to put her at SCUSD schools that would just let her be a number or would only teach her to regurgitate information. Unfortunately, Fortune wanted children to be robotic college students at the age of 6, which began to kill her spirit, especially when the teacher would berate her and drive her under her desk in tears if she did not do something right. She transferred to a school in Elk Grove that offered so many activities (art, coding, etc) but colored students were overlooked and it was a very sink or swim environment. A month later We bought our home in Rancho Cordova just 1 block from AM Winn, a public Waldorf school in SCUSD that I had never heard of in my years of living in Sacramento, and had never heard of Waldorf. I applied for Winn after</p>

researching the curriculum and learning model. She attended Abraham Lincoln for a few short weeks, where I noticed how underserved this school was, before being accepted to AM Winn. I give you this timeline so that you understand the changes she has gone through and how many schools failed to reach her or actually teach her in a way that spoke to her interests, culture, passions etc. She was diagnosed with an adjustment disorder, and AM was able to help identify her problem areas and work with her.

Her favorite part of the transition was Mrs. Bailey, the gardening teacher who made nature, biology and science so much fun. Her Teacher Mrs Rede has created such a bond with her and transitions up with the children so she knows exactly how to reach her and can easily identify when she is struggling or losing confidence, and teaches her confidence as the kids work in their main lesson books to illustrate their lessons. The Handwork and movement teacher lead the kids in a rhythm and flow with their full body. At this school every child learns an instrument each year, and not only does my daughter play the violin, but can play the piano by ear, and is learning guitar because of the interest that this teacher has grown in her. All of these programs are therapeutic to the child, and educational at the same time. ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE PART OF THE CURRICULUM FOR EVERY CHILD AND TIE INTO TEACHING THE FULL CHILD. ALL ACTIVITIES RELATE TO A LESSON WHETHER IT IS SCIENCE, MATH, WRITING, ETC. I watched my daughter blossom and become a kid again, and truly find herself and her passions, with a teacher that teaches her to explore the world around her and her interests, and friends that grow with her through the years. My daughter would not have received the level of care and concern if she was lost in the shuffle of Abe Lincoln or any other school in SCUSD. Looping the teacher up with the child ensures they have someone invested in their success and well being and that they are not just passed on to the next grade like in other schools (much like my step son is experiencing in Golden Empire). Our black and brown students need schools with these alternatives and with this success model that we are seeing with our black and brown students at Winn.

AM Winn is not a technology based school like other schools, we do not operate from text books like other schools. This model was the reason for their success in transitioning to distance learning, and the reason why the waldorf schools developed the Families Project for hands on learning, which became a model for other schools. Our funding goes to our programs and classes for the children for actual hands on learning. Cutting funding for any of our positions means we lose a class or we lose one of these necessities to our curriculum. Our focus is on teaching the child, not teaching to a test so we will not score high on your tests by state measures, but we are growing great human beings that are able to nurture and give back to society, with healthy emotions, and loving hearts, with creativity and the ability to think for themselves logically and meaningfully. To lose the music program, or any additional programs means our kids are left with only the basic curriculum and nothing else. We lost spanish a few years ago and have never regained the funds to bring it back. We were at risk of losing the handwork program last year, but our awesome parents and Guild banded together to raise the funds. We have nearly lost gardening which our garden teacher's amazing husband put together a fundraiser to raise the funds to save that program. This might sound like extra activities to you, but these programs are necessary to reach kids on different levels, it helps with math, comprehension, science, lifeskills, etc. It gives a full hands on learning to make information accessible to the students that learn through audio, visual, or kinestheically. I

highly recommend that your research the waldorf curriculum and understand what the real effects are before you cut any programs.

BEFORE YOU CONSIDER CLOSING A SCHOOL, OR CUTTING A PROGRAM I WOULD MUCH RATHER YOU CONSIDER GIVING UP SCHOOLS TO SURROUNDING DISTRICTS. ABE LINCOLN, CARVER AND WINN SIT ON THE BOARDER OF RANCHO CORDOVA BUT ARE ASSIGNED TO SCUSD. Our tax dollars go to FCUSD but our kids are subject to the management of SCUSD. If you can not afford to take care of our students look into how much you would save by giving up the schools to someone else so that our students still have this option for education. For these reasons I would recommend exploring these options before considering taking away programs, curriculum, or schools:

1. Redraw the boarders to SCUSD district, and assign the schools that actually sit in other cities to their school districts – meaning give Winn, Carver, and Abe Lincoln over to FCUSD which will no longer be an expense for you and our kids still get the Waldorf education and options, and Abe Lincoln might not continue to be overlooked by your district.
2. Cut YOUR pay or give up YOUR benefits as board members.
3. Cut the pay or cut positions in the administrative and district offices, before looking at taking from our teachers and students.
4. Hold an open forum, listening session at each school to let the parents analyze the budget to see where the funds are going, and develop alternative solutions for their school or decide where the money should be allocated. Listen to what WE want, don't just decide it for us based on numbers.
5. Look at your schools in wealthy areas who's families and PTA are well to do and may not need district funds as much (Land Park for instance) and full some of their funding to reallocate to schools that need it the most.
6. Reach out to some of the organizations and departments that paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to endorse candidates in the recent campaigns and ask them to sponsor one of these programs or donate to the school. There should be more of a push to support the schools and children, than to support a political campaign.
7. Restructure After School Programs so that Foster Care students and Cash Aid/Welfare families who already receive a stipend from DHA for child care must utilize that resource and make more slots available for working families. Then make the the afterschool program a sliding scale fee, or a "pay to use" model, and reallocate the funding from afterschool programs to other programs for the schools.

8. BEGIN TO LOOK OUT HOW YOU CAN GET MONEY IN TO THE DISTRICT INSTEAD OF HOW TO CUT COSTS. Find who on your staff are grant writers, find one in each school, and have them all work together to apply for grant funds for their schools to get money in. Find out what parents can help with this effort. Develop a task force to save the district and ask for each school to provide a number of volunteers to do this.

9. Stop taking out loans - we all know "payday advances" do not work so stop utilizing our funds to get loans that we clearly can not pay back and begin looking at other means.

10. Advertise these board meetings and forums better so that you get more parent involvement and awareness of the issues. Our parents probably have better solutions than you do. We know how to make ends meet, and make something out of nothing for our children. We have a vested interest in their success. We do what you are trying to do every day - make ends meet, drum up more money, and dig ourselves out of the hole so our children never notice or feel the difference. Invite us to the table, and step aside so we can figure this out with you, and do not make any decisions until that happens.

There are other options. Please explore them all without taking any positions, any programs, or closing any schools. Please save our schools... save our music programs... save our children.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 10:50:12 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sonja Micocci
Comment:	<p>We moved to Sacramento last year. We moved to this county because of the specialty programs, specifically for Waldorf education. We are impressed with Sacramento Unified that they support alternative education for all, and through 12th grade. We will gladly move and seek education for our girls outside of this district to ensure they have the education we know is best for them. This includes the arts, music and focus on outdoor learning. A fundamental part of Waldorf is looping with the same teacher. To cut that would be detrimental to the foundation of Waldorf education, and research shows that children thrive in this environment. I find it very distressing that anyone would find cutting these programs acceptable, before finding other ways to save them. Our children's education should be top priority.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 10:57:17 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Eric Richards
Comment:	Alice Birney should never be considered for closure in order to balance the obviously broken budget. A waldorf education is an education of the heart and mind- something this district and this world in general is sorely lacking. Perhaps with more competent leadership and accountants, the district can get its house in order and stop with the threats of school closures because of the continued ineptitude at the top. Stop with the threats- focus on solutions.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 11:00:21 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Rosie Yacoub
Comment:	<p>I don't know what is considered in the "alternative instruction" on page 12 of this document https://www.scusd.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/combined_11-19-20.pdf</p> <p>There is concern from the families at Alice Birney that Waldorf education is included--and so that would mean an end of support for Waldorf learning at Alice Birney and AM Winn.</p> <p>I have to say, that just makes me despondent. Both my kids attended Alice Birney, one is still there, and if that is "alternative education" that is being considered as something that should be cut, there is a serious myopia going on at the district. 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. Also, at least at Alice Birney, enrollment is high--and if it isn't at AM Winn, I suspect it will be only a matter of time until it is.</p> <p>I also find the idea of cutting school music and art programs chilling. This is how kids engage creatively, and for some, this is where they find community (not everyone is sporty). If kids don't engage in the arts as students, we are preparing them to be artless and less appreciative of arts, because we are making it clear that art isn't appreciated.</p> <p>I am also concerned for the teachers and for all the district's students about the proposals for cuts to pay and benefits. I wish the District could find grants or support from the City--and don't know how much this has been pursued. I also don't know if the District is getting competitive rates on health insurance. Has changing the insurer been explored?</p> <p>Will the District find itself in the position of not being able to retain or recruit good teachers competitively with the cuts as proposed? The District has been discussing the start date of school as being an issue for teacher recruitment, which means recruitment IS an issue for the district, and pay reduction seems more substantial than start date. Will we see a repeat of last year with high school classes being taught by non-subject matter specialists for a full semester? Is the District prepared to formally accept any changes to teacher pay as temporary--putting a sunset on them? What are the limits of furloughs: can the district only take one furlough day and still meet State requirements for time in school? One thing I didn't see was a discussion of low-enrollment schools. I know this is a difficult issue, because neighborhoods switch around and then the district might have to re-open schools that were closed. But I am wondering if there could be substantial savings if low-enrollment program schools were co-housed with low enrollment area schools, or some kind of combining... For example if one of the small high schools, like Carver or New Tech was co-housed at Sac High, each retaining their programs, but sharing the space (post COVID crisis, of course).</p> <p>Also, top administrators should be subject to proportional cuts to any that teachers/staff take.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 11:04:47 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sarah Federico
Comment:	<p>The debate between the private and public-school system is divisive. Private schools are often considered elitist and exclude children without the financial resources to attend, leaving them at (yet another) distinct disadvantage. And for many years, Waldorf education fell into this category: A lofty and elitist whole-child education for privileged children to enjoy.</p> <p>The well-documented success of this once privatized mode of education relies on an age-appropriate learning philosophy, zero tolerance for media, a non-competitive environment, a focus on the family and an integration of the natural world. In my experience, it produces children who are curious and excited learners – what Waldorf calls ‘life-long learners.’ My children, who attend Alice Birney, have a thirst for knowledge and an unparalleled joy and excitement as it pertains to academic pursuits. What I have long admired about Sacramento City Unified School District is its forward-thinking attitude in regard to the VALUE of alternative modalities of learning. These alternatives in a public-school setting are not only progressive, they’re remarkable. In this way, SCU has demonstrated a steadfast dedication to leveling the playing field between children with exceptional resources and children with few resources, and for that I commend them. And frankly, MANY have taken notice of this altruistic undertaking.</p> <p>That being said, I am painfully aware of the financial strain that the district faces. However, I don’t believe that this strain should cause the district to stray from their course. I believe that diversity and inclusivity have allowed the district to gain national recognition via information-focused research and a subsequent article published by Stanford University – and as we’re stripping away the ‘extra fat’ – I think it’s important to be clear about what is expendable and what is not. Our children’s futures are not expendable. Our ability to think beyond our years should not be expendable. Our caring for those without resources to choose alternative, private education should not be expendable. So, I ask ... Please consider your definition of expendable as you move forward into what is hopefully a solvent future.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 11:05:58 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sarah Wenstrand
Comment:	<p>Comment Regarding 9.1 Fiscal Recovery Plan Update</p> <p>I'm commenting specifically in support of special programs, including Alternative Programs, being considered for cuts in efforts to reduce projected budget shortfalls. If that intends to include Waldorf-inspired instruction at special enrollment schools such as A.M. Winn, George Washington Carver and Alice Birney, I implore the board to continue funding such vital programs.</p> <p>A Waldorf approach has proven valuable already as a household of twin 1st graders at Alice Birney, and even more so during this pandemic situation. Support from such expertly-trained and caring instructors and staff, knowledge that they will eventually get to be in the classroom with their trusted leader who knows them well (since they have the same "looped" teacher from 1st through 8th grade), and an approach that values and nurtures so many facets of their emotional and physical development, is absolutely vital to the situation in which we as a community find ourselves. I would imagine that might be the scenario for other families similarly committed to Waldorf experiences, who would likely continue elsewhere rather than stay in the district without it, so please also consider that and all its potential fiscal implications.</p> <p>At this time of so many adjustments and compromises, we've been grateful to have the resilience that Waldorf education inspires while supporting our connection and contributions to our public school system. I hope that is allowed to continue, at the very least, and even suggest expanding access to the programs and approaches in adjustment to the distance- and hopeful hybrid-learning necessities of these unique times.</p> <p>Thank you for all your hard work and difficult decisions on behalf of our children's education.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sarah Wenstrand</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 11:09:10 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Katie Towers
Comment:	<p>To the members of the Board - As a parent of two children in the district and a local healthcare provider, I want to thank the school board for continuing distance learning during these challenging times. We are all being pushed to our limits so I imagine it is a difficult time to have to navigate the budget of the district and I commend our school board members for trying to fix this seemingly unfixable problem. My children attend school at Alice Birney Waldorf. We picked Alice Birney for many reasons, but our appreciation for the school has been highlighted during distance learning. Because of looping, we came into this school year with familiar classmates and teachers on our screens -- allowing the children to jump into learning with a teacher who knew each student's unique capabilities. This familiarity was a comfort during an otherwise uncomfortable start to the school year. Our schools are our communities, and I hope that in seeking solutions to the current budget concerns, the school board continues to push for upstream, big picture solutions to balancing the budget versus cutting programs that make our district uniquely poised to meet the needs of it's diverse student population.</p> <p>Best, Katie Towers</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 11:09:28 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Kesi hatten
Comment:	<p>What I cannot understand is how Jorge has the audacity to put an article on the SCUSD website talking about a budget yet he keeps receiving raises. How is it you can fix your pen to write such madness yet you cannot balance a budget nor get an agreeable contract signed between our teachers and the district. If you ask me what needs to be cut is Jorge and his salary to release funding so it may be appropriated correctly. These kids matter you all were voted in for them. Jorge you have done nothing but line your pockets while screaming the district broke all at the same time. I'm confused, how dumb do you think parents are? This is such a disgrace that at a time like this during a pandemic Jorge would even consider taking yet another raise knowing how "broke the district is." I'm trying to understand how long is this madness and I mean sick madness supposed to continue. Jorge it is time for you to GO!!!!!!</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 11:50:11 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Megan Wygant
Comment:	<p>I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed cuts to the Visual and Performing Arts programs at SCUSD.</p> <p>As executive director of CLARA Studios -- an ongoing partner in supporting and building SCUSD's arts education initiatives -- I can tell you that cutting arts programming would be disastrous for our most vulnerable students.</p> <p>Our district has struggled with a documented performance gap between the achievement levels of high-income students, and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. High school testing, performance, and graduation rates for our most vulnerable students is embarrassingly low.</p> <p>Nationwide studies have shown that one of the most consistent ways to repair achievement gaps like this is through the arts. When a student from a low-income household is provided with an education that includes regular exposure to dance, music, and theatre, magic happens: SAT scores are, on average, 100 points higher; high school drop out rates are **5 times** lower; and college matriculation rates are twice that of their economic peers without the benefits of arts education.</p> <p>Arts are the magic bullet, they are the great equalizer -- and by proposing the elimination of all VAPA staff from the district budget, you would be saying that the fight to stem that achievement gap is a reasonable casualty in the movement towards fiscal solvency.</p> <p>If we're not here to fight for the most vulnerable of our students, to ensure that every child has the opportunity to access higher education and greater opportunity than was available to them at birth...then what, exactly, are we here for?</p> <p>CLARA is one of many arts partners that provides supplemental arts education to SCUSD students. Let me be clear: we provide essential access to professional arts experiences, and in-class arts residencies with working artists, but these types of programs have always been meant to supplement regular arts curriculum. We cannot do the work we do without the support of the VAPA programs currently in place.</p> <p>When you look at how arts inclusion impacts student performance, student graduation rates and college matriculation rates, removing the arts from SCUSD's curriculum is a short-sighted cut that could set back Sacramento's most vulnerable students for generations (to say nothing of the city's ability to develop our workforce, attract higher caliber employers to the area, and so many other economic essentials). This cut impacts not just SCUSD, but our city and community as a whole...and it cannot stand.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 11:52:12 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Elizabeth Stone
Comment:	<p>This comment is in regards to the possibility of closing the A.M. Win public Waldorf school. Both of my sons Wyatt and Russell Turner attended A.M. Win, we live in placerville and did a district transfer just so my boys could attend this school. My oldest son started TK at a school here in placerville do to his SPD (sensory processing disorder) he was bullied from day one. I pulled him out half way through the yr and moved him to a charter. I chose to do this after a horrible bullying experience where he was trapped in a bathroom by 2 older boys at the school. He was not safe. The charter I moved him to would now allow him in classes because he was to "disruptive". It wasn't until we found am win last yr and my son started kindergarten that he was able to make his first friend. He no longer cried that he had to go to school. He was no longer afraid to go to school and I wasn't afraid to drop him off. He has grown so much in the last yr from the amazing job that this Waldorf school has done. He has friends that include him and a teacher that supports him no matter what. I have no idea what I will do if this school closes it is his safe place. This is a school that can meet his needs and help him become the best he can be. Without it we will be truly lost. Please dont take my sons school from him.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 11:53:17 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Amalia Saavedra
Comment:	specialty schools offer a different, but extremely valued form of education. Do not cut funding!

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 11:55:09 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jill Kupelian
Comment:	I have one child who currently attends Alice Birney and two who previously attended both Alice Birney and George Washington Carver. The Waldorf methods have been beneficial to each of my children from the whole child approach, looping, and the arts.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 11:56:57 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Allison Cagley
Comment:	<p>Friends of Sacramento Arts respectfully requests that you do not eliminate the VAPA/Music Teachers funding from the budget. Students thrive when have they access to the arts. Studies show that students who have the arts as a part of their education are: 5x less likely to drop out of school; have lower rates of misconduct; have 3x higher attendance rates. The arts are critical to those students in Title 1 schools who may not have any other arts education exposure.</p> <p>California's state education code promises every K-12 student classes in music, dance, theater and visual art, yet according to the latest data, only 39% of students get to participate in those classes. Low-income, black and brown students and rural students have even lower participation rates. Access to the arts is linked to higher attendance rates and lower dropout rates and achievement in literacy, math skills. "An Unfinished Canvas," the SRI study in 2006 of Arts Education Policy and Practice in California, found that "In California's more affluent schools, almost twice the percentage of students received instruction in each arts discipline, compared with high-poverty schools." Where community resources support a complete education, the arts exist; where those resources are lacking due to economic disadvantage, the arts and its many benefits for students are marginalized.</p> <p>Due to the efforts of parents who value arts programs, privately funded high quality programs have been maintained in wealthier school districts. But a child's access to arts education should not be predicated by where they happen to live. Until school districts have confidence that new arts education funding is ongoing, they can be reluctant to invest in hiring and training teachers.</p> <p>Please do not cut the funding for the arts in your schools. Thank you for your sincere and thoughtful consideration of this request.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 11:56:58 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Ursula DeWitt
Comment:	These cuts only further the already devastating learning loss happening. Highly paid administrators should take the pay cut for our scholars, not services. The budget cuts don't align with the district message to put kids first. Revamp the budget to reflect reality, starting with the LCA Plan Recommendations submitted to Sacramento County of Education. Implement ALL recommendations of the Black Parallel School Board.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Gayle Davis
Comment:	<p>From: Gayle Davis, President Emeritus, Rudolf Steiner College; native of Sacramento and Waldorf grandparent. As you struggle with budget challenges please keep the following in mind:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) This year marked 100 years of Waldorf Education worldwide, and the Sacramento area public and private Waldorf schools and were honored by a California State Senate resolution offering congratulations for Waldorf's contributions to the children of this state. 2) Credit is due to the Sacramento Board of Education, on behalf of the district, for the accolades received in the 2015 Stanford University study of Waldorf Education in Sacramento. Kudos also for listening to the overwhelming parent support for these programs. 3) The Stanford study found significantly higher positive student achievement outcomes on standardized state assessments by Waldorf students, greater engagement and significantly lower disciplinary action and truancy. 4) We should value that a heretofore prestigious private school education has been made available to public school children in diverse neighborhoods. 5) There has been a major investment in establishing these schools of choice that nourish academic excellence, emotional intelligence, artistic development and creativity. They have become models for schools across the country. 6) The greater Sacramento area is home to one of the largest concentrations of Waldorf public, charter and private K- 8 schools in the county – schools that will increasingly act as feeders to the George Washington Carver High School. These will continue to provide much needed out-of-district funding to SCUSD.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/18/2020 12:27:34 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 19, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Traci Perry
Comment:	Do not close Alice Birney!!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/19/2020 5:39:33 AM

From:
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:14 PM
To:
Cc: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Re: Public Comment on 9.1 Fiscal Recovery Plan Update

On Nov 17, 2020, at 6:55 PM, chardonmay provine wrote:

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.

Sincerely,
Chardonmay Kelly

Comment:

I am a parent of two students with IEPs who attend A.M. Winn Public Waldorf. The benefits this unique school has had on my children are too numerous to count, but I will attempt to summarize by saying the the loving relationships and approach to teaching has transformed my third grader from being completely non-verbal and solitary at school in kindergarten - to confident, academically excelling and truly happy today - despite continuing via distance learning.

If public Waldorf education is not an option for my family in SCUSD, we WILL NOT be attending the district any longer. We intentionally chose a Title 1 public Waldorf school for our family with the knowledge that its diversity, inclusion and commitment to nature and the arts would provide our children with a well-rounded school experience and prepare them for the future.

SCUSD is home to the first and second public Waldorf schools in the United States. This is historic and admirable! Our school provides an amazing education to students who otherwise would not be able to access such an environment. The teaching methods at our Waldorf schools are research-backed and highly sought after among educators. Please recognize the monumental affect A.M. Winn has on a low-income

community and your responsibility to continue acting as leaders in providing such opportunities.

From: Jack Mitchell
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 8:20 AM
To:
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Board of Education

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.



WEBFORM SUBMISSION

Submitted by user

Name:
Jack Mitchell

Email:

Phone Number:

Student Name (if applicable):

School (if applicable):

Comment or Question:


It is appalling to think that the students who live in the State Capitol will be denied access to arts and career technical education because adults can't put students' interest ahead of their own!

And how can you, as Board of Education members, let this happen on your watch?

All Districts in the State are having tough financial times but no other large urban district has seen eliminating Arts and career readiness programs as a viable alternative to balancing their budgets!

It's time to put students first and it is the responsibility of the Board to protect the interests of their students!

You can also get daily updates:

 Facebook  Twitter

You are receiving this e-mail because you have requested to receive district updates or signed up on our website. If you are receiving this message in error, please [contact us](#) so we can promptly resolve the problem.

From: V. Gina Diaz
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:15 PM
To: Michael Minnick; SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Re: Public Comment - SCUSD Board of Trustee Meeting -

Hello again Trustee Minnick,

I'm writing to comment on Agenda Item 9.1 for the SCUSD Board's meeting today, November 19, 2020.

My name is Virginia Diaz, my son who has been a primary school student at AM Winn has benefited greatly from the fact that it's a small school, a non-traditional program, and a Title 1 school. I support keeping schools that meet the needs of a variety of students and families open. Education research shows that small school environments are particularly effective with supporting those of us with specialized needs. We have particularly appreciated the school's enriching language arts and creative curriculum as well as the focus on our natural environment, which are unique to Waldorf education and were compelling reasons for our family's selection of the school.

Recently a colleague who is an education researcher shared with me the following on the relationship of learning environments to inequality. I hope you will read it closely and share it with your peers in the district and other regional leaders responsible for educating our youth. As a graduate of the district from 1991 with a high school diploma AND a certificate in Careers With Children, I have long known about many of the findings of this research, which in fact is why my family chose to stay in SCUSD and attend a public Waldorf option. In fact the article outlines some of the same principles I learned in my own education in the district as a high school senior in the Regional Occupational Program and in my Childhood Education training at Sacramento City College in the early 1990's.

<https://kappanonline.org/rethinking-schools-rethinking-learning-mckinney-de-royston-lee-nasir-pea/d>

PLEASE consider carefully the specific and unique needs of our children in Sacramento and how schools with alternative approaches can better help them succeed in life and learning. I hope you will do whatever you can to continue to make these options possible in SCUSD!

Thank you for your attentive consideration,
Virginia Diaz

From:
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:06 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Comment for 11/19 meeting, agenda item 9.1

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 form would not take my response, therefore please accept it here (even though it is a few minutes late).

Shared from Amber A. a parent in SAc City school district. Please do not share any more detail about name given the information I am sharing below, to protect our son's privacy.

I come from a family with multiple public school educators and as a person value the public education system with the community and parents investing to make them better rather than leaving when they aren't good enough for charter, private, or homeschool options. My own child, and his needs, have humbled me into understanding that the situation for many children is not always so simple. And for those with special needs, like my son, this reality is thrown into sharp relief. I could not have been more grateful to find a school, like AM Winn where my son could remain in the public school system while still receiving an education he would be able to be a full participant in.

Our family is not just in the district but in the city and state for the public Waldorf inspired schools. We lived abroad for four years and returned to the US when it became clear the resources needed for our son could not be acquired where we were. We organized our life around our son's need and looked for the public school option (our first choice, but we would have gone outside public if we felt we had no other option) that could provide him an education he could access. The research done that shows the value of this education in a public setting is so clear. And we were particularly grateful for Winn as it provided this educational framework but with a greater level of diversity in multiple ways than other magnet/specialty options. This matches both the values and experience our family has and our hope that such educational frameworks would benefit more children than those with parents whose own education and income allow the option to "shop" schools. I cannot overstate the eloquence and beauty with which children who might be deemed "trouble" in other settings are given an equal place and a chance to have their best be noted and their challenges managed in a way that did not involve shaming. This, of course, could be our own classroom experience, but I don't think so.

Having seen my child briefly in traditional public school setting (two different public schools for 3 weeks each) it was clear that we could not in good conscience keep him there unless we had no other alternatives. We arranged our whole lives around the school we thought at minimum our son wouldn't be stressed all the time and at hopefully a place where he would thrive. What he minimally needed and what we most hoped for our both the case at Winn. With his limited time (3 weeks each) in traditional public schools, the teachers were frankly panicked with the modifications he needed (before receiving an IEP) to be engaged at a Kindergarten level: he needed a ten second response time to questions, visual cues, and extra support in transitions. It takes some work for a teacher, but it is not a massive request. Contrary to the panic experienced there, no one at Winn has ever panicked. Not before or after receiving a diagnoses that explained his challenges. Instead we've been assured that his way of being in the world is good and the curriculum having multi sensory and SEL integration makes learning possible without an insane IEP nor an in class aide. I have no idea what we would do if programs like this were shut down, but I feel confident we wouldn't move to another Sac City school. We would

move cities, states, or homeschool before we would do that, unless massive changes were made to the general/traditional school settings which given all the things that are up for discussion to be on the chopping block are clearly not going to happen. This agenda item feels like a clear departure from where schools generally and our district specifically needs to go. And strategically a 180 from where all the district emails SAID we were headed especially during distance learning. Have integrity and keep SEL, arts, and specialty programs that support children with different learning needs not only in place but as goals to continually reach for so that ALL our children can have the education they deserve and that allows learning to fully integrate.

From: Vicki Carlson
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:03 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: AM Winn

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.

agenda item 9.1

The Waldorf program focuses on developing the whole child which is more important now than ever. With all the emphasis on technology the whole child is often neglected. The children are our future and we do not want to neglect this very important issue. Incorporating all aspects into learning process promotes resilient children who are our future.

As a retired Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and a grandmother who has spent time in the classroom losing this program would be very sad.

Thank you, Vicki Carlson PNP

**November 19, 2020 - Public Comments for Sacramento City USD
Board of Education Meeting
Coalition for Students with Disabilities**

These are comments on behalf of Sarah Williams Kingsley, Renee Webster-Hawkins, Grace Trujillo, Angel Garcia, Angie Sutherland. We will be combining our time for these comments.

Item 9.1 - Fiscal Recovery Update

(Sarah Williams Kingsley will speak for the group in public comment)

In Spring 2019, in the heat of discussions about insolvency and budget cuts, Music, Visual and Performing Arts, Gifted and Talented Education were all on the chopping block. The community and students made impassioned pleas to save their beloved programs over the course of multiple meetings. Before a vote to cut the programs was made, the district's consultant Jackie Canfield informed the board that even if they cut the programs, the funds couldn't be used to close the budget gap because the programs were funded through restricted supplemental funds. Eighteen months later, here we are again with the items on a list of possible cuts to close a budget gap. My question is: has anything changed about the funding of these programs that would suggest that cutting them saves the district any money? Are they funded in a different manner now? It feels like groundhog day -- repeating the same cycle of desperate cost cutting conversations and retreats over and over again without any progress at all.

Second, why don't we hear anything about these programs outside of budget discussions? We NEVER get programmatic updates about how many students they serve or their outcomes. Before we talk about whether they are worth spending money on, shouldn't we have a frank conversation about whether they are serving students? Are they working? The community has been asking for a real evaluation of which programs are working and how they impact student outcomes for more than a year. Where is the data? Where are the board presentations about students served or outcomes improved? This is what the community wants and deserves.

Comments by David Fisher, President, and Nikki Milevsky, First Vice-President, of the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA), to the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) Board of Education, School Reopening, Agenda Item 9.1

David and Nikki are combining their time.

November 19, 2020

Good evening. I'm David Fisher, president of the Sacramento City Teachers Association.

Two weeks ago, we had the opportunity to depose Mike Fine, the CEO of California's Fiscal Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) related to an alleged SCUSD Brown Act violation.

Our attorney asked Mr. Fine about his scathing emails to Board President Ryan and Superintendent Aguilar in March 2019.

As Mr. Fine explained, he was extremely concerned that when he wrote those emails in March 2019, despite his repeated requests, the District still had not developed a Fiscal Recovery Plan. He then added, and I'm paraphrasing, and they still haven't up to the present.

The so-called plan presented tonight likewise doesn't meet any objective standard of a real plan.

The District still is not addressing the administrative bloat. The school board continues to approve new administrative positions—a new Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, and others.

In March 2019, School Board President Ryan introduced a resolution that was passed unanimously that included the following:

“District Superintendent, Jorge Aguilar, has agreed to forgo any salary increase allowed under his Employment Agreement until the District receives either a qualified or positive certification as defined in Education Code section 42131, subdivision (a)(1).”

And then one year later this board approved a \$34,000 increase in Mr. Aguilar's total compensation, as if the previous resolution never existed.

That \$34,000 by the way, is more than enough to offset the \$25,000 savings the District would achieve by cutting into its dual immersion program.

Tonight's "plan" is yet another attempt to manipulate numbers by a leadership team with a proven history of misleading the public-- with the full support of Dave Gordon and SCOE.

For the last three years, this board, superintendent and SCOE have stated that the District is on the brink of insolvency. And yet the District today has a reserve fund of \$93 million, the highest in its history. And that doesn't account for the \$101.3 the District has parked in its books and supplies line item, which more than addresses the purported \$50 million shortfall.

Fortunately, in less than one month, we have three new school board members who will be helping to lead the district, leaders not compromised by potential conflicts of interest, or a need to manipulate numbers for their own political agenda.

We look forward to working with the new school board to transform Sac City into a district that is fiscally well-managed with a priority to putting resources where they belong—in the classroom.

From: Elizabeth Ghiorso
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 11:37 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Board meeting 11/19 GW Carver HS

My name is Beth Ghiorso and I am an English teacher at George Washington Carver School of Arts and Sciences. I hope the district and the board are aware of the wonderful program we have at our small school. I have been involved in guiding seniors and juniors through the college search and application process, and I am impressed with the preparation Carver provides. As of last year, despite closures due to COVID, graduating seniors had the opportunity to earn up to 24 units of transferable credit for college. Students could earn 18 units through our ACE program, a partnership with Sac State, which has allowed students to take their regularly scheduled English, government, history and science classes for college credit. Folsom Lake Community College also collaborated with us to offer two semesters of on site instruction in two psychology classes. Seniors expressed gratitude to have this opportunity as it meant financial savings for many and gave them a head start in completing college requirements, all while staying on campus.

Furthermore, we are a school that focuses on social and environmental justice issues, a curriculum the rest of the country is now discussing taking up. In addition to the in-class curriculum, students were encouraged to go out into the community and take part in events, community meetings and volunteering. Seniors who were enrolled in our Environmental Science class created a watershed project in coordination with the Center for Landbased Learning. Over the years we have had many students make public presentations to judges, resulting in financial assistance in completing their projects. Several seniors wrote about their experiences in their college essays, experiences that college admissions officers sat up and noticed. At Carver students engage in real world problem solving as well as a rigorous academic program.

I am really proud to work at Carver. Within the bounds of our regular program we offer students some wonderful opportunities and college readiness without placing a financial burden on them and without overstretching their already busy schedules.

From: Stacey A Armstrong
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 11:37 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Cc: maggie&stacey
Subject: Comments regarding matter number: agenda item 9.1 for Thursday Nov 19 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.

Hello,

My name is Stacey Armstrong - my son, Vander Armstrong, (and soon, my daughter, Eleanor) attends Alice Birney Public Waldorf. I am writing to implore the board to rescind any further consideration of closing, altering, or staff reduction to any of the cutting edge, public Waldorf schools provided by our district.

When we moved to Sacramento area nearly a decade ago, prior to having children, we specifically chose Sacramento because the specialty schools offered. My wife and I are dedicated to, and encouraging others to support our public schools. As we explored various public school options, I became alarmed that the singular focus on academics: hours of homework, testing, coupled with long stretches of young children sitting behind a desk, was limiting and detrimental to young bodies and spirits. As we interviewed various cities around the country, we began to think that private school or perhaps charters schools were going to have to become a real option, we were unsettled. We are in philosophical opposition of public resources shifting to private/charter schools, but they offered a more wholistic and varied approach that we were not finding in a public system, and then we discovered that Sacramento had several specialty programs to choose from within their public school system!

Alice Birney's principal, teachers and staff have surpassed our high expectations and we feel so grateful to be able to support public schools and build relationships within our children's community that are long lasting. Our community has a unified purpose of helping our younger generation in developing a love of learning, curiosity in world and a focus on integrated, intergenerational relationship building and long term community commitment. Many benefits come from the school's unique commitment to having the class and teacher from 1st – 8th grade, and a manageable number of students and having adaptive learning opportunities and resources that Alice Birney provides. Alice Birney, and by extension the SCUSD sets the standard for comprehensive, sustainable learning environment and provides the framework for long-term student success.

Please support and maintain or further supplement our current high standard of care and education to our school by supporting our teachers, our mission and our students.

Sincerely,
Stacey Armstrong

****CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE**** This e-mail communication and any attachments are for the sole use of the intended recipient and may contain information that is confidential and privileged under state and federal privacy laws. If you received this e-mail in error, be aware that any unauthorized use, disclosure, copying, or distribution is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail in error, please contact the sender immediately and destroy/delete all copies of this message.

From: keith turner
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:21 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Cc: Christina Pritchett
Subject: Agenda item 9.1

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: Sacramento City Unified School District
From: Keith Turner

Re: Agenda item 9.1

To Whom It Concerns:

I am the grandfather of four children (two attending Alice Birney and two out-of-district students attending A.M.Winn) who also volunteers to help in the classroom.

Regarding this proposal to close three Waldorf-based schools:

Why is this happening now? Why, in the middle of a pandemic, are you considering taking these drastic measures that will certainly damage the education of children by moving them from Waldorf-based education to a traditional classroom, where they will be doomed to fail.

Why now? After a year of dealing with at-home Zoom learning which will most certainly set their education back at least a year.

Why now? When the district has been clearly saving money by not having schools open during the pandemic. These closure clearly have been a money saver for the district, with no meals being served, no school buses to be maintained, no overtime or extra expenses that come naturally with operating schools in normal times. With none of these normal school expenses, the district must be saving millions of dollars. Where is all that money going?

Why now? With a new administration coming into the U.S. government that has pledged to make education one of its top priorities, with the promise of additional funding for schools.

Why now? In the middle of a pandemic, why would you even consider making such drastic cuts that will affect the education of hundreds of at-risk students.

This proposal makes absolutely no sense . . . especially now!

Thank you.

Keith Turner

From: keith turner
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:03 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Cc: Christina Pritchett
Subject: Agenda item 9.1

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: Sacramento City Unified School District
From: Keith Turner

Grandfather of four children (two attending Alice Birney and two attending A.M.Winn)

Re: Agenda item 9.1

To Whom it Concerns:

My two grandsons are out-of-district transfer students at A.M. Winn Waldorf school. Wyatt is in first grade and Russell is in kindergarten. I also have two grandchildren who are students at Alice Birney Waldorf School (Everan is in fourth grade and Winter is in third grade). My two now-adult children also attended Waldorf schools and both my wife and I have been volunteering at least one day a week each at these schools (Judy at Alice Birney and me at A.M. Winn) for years and we love doing so!

I understand that there is discussion about closing these schools and I implore you that this would be a HUGE mistake. Having been associated with Waldorf education for more than 25 years, I understand the wonderful benefits that Waldorf education provides to students. It's a well-rounded education that incorporates the full body and mind in all of its teachings. Waldorf education is especially brilliant for students who may have challenges with focus and/or memorizing because it helps students learn organically, from the inside out, rather than just throwing information at the child and expecting it to stick. Waldorf education is a wonderful full body education that works with the child to help them learn the way that best suits their personality and skill set.

It would be a tremendous mistake for you to think that these schools should be closed and the students integrated into other more traditional classrooms. The Waldorf method is so dramatically different than traditional education that it would be incredibly detrimental for these transfer students to be plopped into a traditional classroom after being in a Waldorf classroom.

I can only assume that by even considering the closure of these schools, you have no idea about the benefits of a Waldorf education. I urge you to take some time to learn about Waldorf education and how much different it is than the traditional classroom. My family has been blessed to have benefitted from a Waldorf education and I wish this option for all parents.

If you truly want what is best for the students and their families — your current and future constituents — you will not close these schools!

Thank you.

Keith Turner

From: Alice Lanier
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 8:46 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: George Washington Carver School Of Arts and Science

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 Alice Lanier and I am proud to be a student at George Washington Carver, School of Arts and Science. I came to Carver freshman year because I wanted to continue my Waldorf education in a small school environment. Carver has been the perfect fit! Every single teacher wants me and every single student to succeed and really understand and learn the topics, not just memorize facts and spew them back on a test. I commute all the way from Davis, a forty five minute drive down I-80 every morning. If that doesn't show dedication to education and my school I don't know what does! Lots of my classmates commute from out of district to attend Carver. ([see the map provided](#)) I know they are all beyond grateful for the support and sense of belonging of the Carver community. George Washington Carver is a special place where students like me come to learn and grow in a safe, supportive, creative and most importantly, growing environment.

Thank you,
George Washington Carver student,
-Alice Lanier

From: Alison West
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 8:01 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Agenda item 9.1

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 Superintendent Aguilar and respected Board Members,

My name is Alison and I am a parent and an employee of SCUSD. I am writing you in efforts to protect A.M. Winn and the fellow public Waldorf schools in our district from getting closed or the infrastructure of the programs greatly reduced. I was here in Spring supporting to keep the Parent Participation Preschool open and I applaud you for doing so. My eldest just started kindergarten this year at A.M. Winn. I chose this school for the curriculum of teaching the whole child and the embedded use of art and music. I'm thrilled that SCUSD has elected schools and even more thrilled that there is the Waldorf curriculum in our district. This year is heart breaking on so many levels. Closing these schools or greatly reducing the programs will be heartbreaking for my family as well as many others. We had envisioned the next 15 years at combined A.M.Winn and Carver, we found our community, where we want our future and if we don't have these schools my family will need to restart our plans and possibly move out of the district.

Thank you for reading,

Alison West, A.M. Winn Parent and SCUSD employee that is proud that the Waldorf based schools are in our district

From: Arthur and Meg Mark
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 11:48 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Cc: Christina Pritchett
Subject: Fiscal Recovery Plan comment November 19 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.

I am the parent of a third grade student at A.M. Winn Waldorf-Inspired school. We live outside of the district, but three years ago we transferred our daughter into Sacramento City Unified School District and commute almost 30 minutes each way so that our daughter may attend this wonderful school.

The popular and effective Waldorf education methods are truly amazing when you realize that they were developed a hundred years ago. The focus on developmentally appropriate material, learning that involves the whole child (hand, heart and head) and community values of Waldorf were well ahead of their time. What we today call social-emotional learning, project based learning, anti-bullying, and instilling respect for oneself and others have always been integral to Waldorf educational practices, and are very alive at A.M. Winn today.

There are many important aspects of Waldorf education, but two that are most important when discussing fiscal issues and staffing are the Waldorf practice of "Looping" and the Waldorf "Specialty Classes."

"Looping" means a class teacher ideally spends 5 to 8 years (in grades first-eighth) with the same class. While this practice seems foreign to those used to a more traditional model, the benefits are deep. One is that each class grows together, like a family, creating a space of immense security for the growing child where learning is optimized. Another is that conflict or behavioral issues must be addressed and resolved, rather than passed along to the next teacher. Dramatically, start of year learning loss and classroom management concerns are significantly reduced, as there is no "getting to know you" period at the start of each year- the teacher and students already know each other so well! New students are warmly welcomed into the class, and the teacher may focus more particularly on them during the time of adjustment.

A Waldorf school is not a Waldorf school without its "Specialty Classes." AM Winn has music (including a wonderful strings program), movement and handwork specialty classes. These subjects are not "extra-curricular." At A.M. Winn, Specialty teachers offer lessons that work in concert with the main lessons taught by the class teacher. Math, science, history, language arts – all learning- is collaboratively interwoven with and strengthened by the specialty class lessons.

Teacher Looping and Specialty Classes are integral to the Waldorf method. Without these practices, A.M. Winn would no longer be a Waldorf-Inspired school. Sacramento City Unified School District has taken such care to grow the wonderful Waldorf-Inspired public school programs at Alice Birney, Carver High School, and A.M. Winn. It makes good fiscal sense to keep these ground-breaking and sought-after programs intact and complete.

Respectfully,

Meg Mark

From: Samuel Skow
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:22 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Agenda Item 9.1

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.

Sam Skow, A.M. Winn parent

My child attends 3rd grade at A.M. Winn. Although we live about ½ hour away, we commute specifically to Winn for the benefits of a Waldorf-inspired public education that only exists in the SCUSD. One long-standing criticism of Waldorf education has been its lack of accessibility, with the costs of private tuition presenting a major obstacle for most families. Public Waldorf programs are nothing short of revolutionary, and the SCUSD should be commended for establishing these wonderful programs in its jurisdiction. It would be a shame for these beneficial curricula to be damaged or destroyed by a short-sighted bid for financial solvency without exhausting all other avenues.

Our family was drawn to Waldorf for its embrace of the "whole child," but we have also joined a community that indeed nourishes the "whole family." In a time of deep uncertainty, isolation, and upheaval, the A.M. Winn community fosters a village, where we are all connected by our shared commitment to our children. This is reflected by the high rate of volunteerism among parents and guardians as well as the low student turnover. Our daughter excels in this student-centered environment, where she is encouraged to learn at her own pace and has developed a profoundly supportive relationship with her peers and her teacher, who she has been with since 1st grade.

From: Sara Escamilla
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 8:57 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Agenda item 9.1

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 our family attends scusd specifically for public waldorf inspired education. It has many benefits that are supportive during this pandemic and beyond. Students have stable social groups that support mental health through class looping.

Sara Escamilla
Parent, Alice Birney Waldorf

From: Katherine Lehman
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 6:44 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Agena item 9.1

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 School Board Members,

I am a former SCUSD teacher and a founding member of Alice Birney Waldorf Methods School. I am stunned that you would even consider closing the innovative and effective Waldorf Programs in the district. These programs are one of the most impressive efforts this district has put forth in envisioning a meaningful education that prepares all students to meet the challenges of the future.

You have the evidence in the SCOPE study of the importance of these schools. The amazing thing is that these schools have flourished in a major urban district. These schools represent the light in the future. Do the right thing and **expand** these programs for more students in our district!!

Katherine G. Lehman

From: Jody PoquetteLCSW
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 6:03 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: AM Winn Public Waldorf 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 SCUSD Board of Education Members,

My husband and I moved our family to Sacramento from 300 miles away last year specifically so that our two daughters could attend AM Winn Public Waldorf school. This year, they are in 3rd and 6th grades, and they have benefitted tremendously from the unique schooling environment that AM Winn offers. Our children have grown by leaps and bounds due to the benefits of keeping the same teacher (looping) and being able to build that supportive relationship. We have found the teacher, parent, and family community to be very supportive and enriching. It is a special learning environment that fosters social-emotional growth, embraces the whole-child approach, utilizes a slow-tech teaching style, and builds their relationship with nature. Our children have thrived by learning the arts--music (violin and pentatonic flute), painting, crafts, handwork (knitting, crocheting, and sewing). They practice movement, drama, and gardening. There are amazing school community activities including the lantern walk (where the kids make paper mache lanterns and we all walk through the local community at night singing songs), plays, dinners, fundraising events, and Friday Markets where the kids raise funds for their classes by selling goods that they have baked or made.

They have had the opportunity to grow and develop with their teachers and peers. They have both been involved in the amazing after school ASES program, which has continued their Waldorf-inspired enrichment. The Waldorf approach is a whole-child approach which ensures that each child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged.

The classroom, the teachers, and the entire school environment have been committed to the healthy growth and development of our children.

Commitment to community/looping through 8th. The consistent emphasis on building and fostering a healthy community where the children support each other and build each other up has been quite beneficial to the mental health of our children.

AM Winn Public Waldorf K-8 sets the standard for comprehensive, sustainable school improvement and provides for long-term student success. We are grateful that Sacramento City Unified School District offers these important, necessary, beneficial and inclusive schools/programs to serve our diverse array of students and to help them grow into the best adults they can be. We cannot say enough good things about AM Winn. Our family would be devastated if this school was taken from us. The other benefit of moving here is that George Washington Carver School of the Arts and Sciences will offer our children the opportunity to continue their growth in a Waldorf high school.

Thank you,

Jody Poquette



From: sara bailey
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:10 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Agenda item 9.1

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, Agenda item 9.1
11/19/20 SCUSD Board Meeting

My name is Sara Bailey and I am the parent of two children attending AM Winn Public Waldorf. It has come to my attention that the district has placed our school on the list of potential schools/programs/positions that could be cut. AM Winn is the only Title 1 Public Waldorf School in the nation. We transferred to SCUSD to enroll in AM Winn 8 years ago, during its 2nd year transitioning to a public Waldorf school. This transition happened after the district placed Winn on a list of schools slated to be shut down as a means to make cuts in the district budget. The neighborhood and school community did not let that happen. They fought for the school to stay open to serve their families and helped create the plan to transition to a Waldorf school. Our family chose AM Winn Public Waldorf because it puts into practice many of the values and ideologies SCUSD claims to uphold. I see the word access and equity used frequently in letters I receive from the leadership at SCUSD. AM Winn, as a Title 1 Public Waldorf school, provides access to a Waldorf education that many families in our district, including mine, couldn't afford if we had to go outside of a public-school setting. Waldorf education provides access to music, arts, handwork, life skills, nature, gardening, and so many rich, hands on experiential means for students to access learning, all while teaching to the "whole child". This is equity in practice as opposed to equity as platitudes. I implore the leadership of SCUSD to put into practice the ideals and values of equity you so often claim is at the heart of your mission. Show us that access and equity in education means something to you.

From: chardonay provine
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 6:55 PM
To: Christina Pritchett
Cc: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment on 9.1 Fiscal Recovery Plan Update

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 Ms. Pritchett,

My comments below are being submitted in reference to agenda item 9.1. Please let me know how I can attend Thursday's board meeting, as this topic is extremely important to my family.

Sincerely,
Chardonay Kelly

Comment:

I am a parent of two students with IEPs who attend A.M. Winn Public Waldorf. The benefits this unique school has had on my children are too numerous to count, but I will attempt to summarize by saying the the loving relationships and approach to teaching has transformed my third grader from being completely non-verbal and solitary at school in kindergarten - to confident, academically excelling and truly happy today - despite continuing via distance learning.

If public Waldorf education is not an option for my family in SCUSD, we WILL NOT be attending the district any longer. We intentionally chose a Title 1 public Waldorf school for our family with the knowledge that its diversity, inclusion and commitment to nature and the arts would provide our children with a well-rounded school experience and prepare them for the future.

SCUSD is home to the first and second public Waldorf schools in the United States. This is historic and admirable! Our school provides an amazing education to students who otherwise would not be able to access such an environment. The teaching methods at our Waldorf schools are research-backed and highly sought after among educators. Please recognize the monumental affect A.M. Winn has on a low-income community and your responsibility to continue acting as leaders in providing such opportunities.

From: Katte Smith
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 11:52 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Cc: Christina Pritchett
Subject: Thursday Board Meeting Comments

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.

Agenda item 9.1

My name is Katte Smith, my child attends AM Winn Waldorf.

My child attends AM Winn from out of district; I specifically chose this school when my child was in first grade. He is now in the 8th Grade, and I am applying again for an Inter District Permit specifically for the Specialty High School Program at George Washington Carver.

Waldorf Education has been a blessing for my child to grow and explore his education. I chose AM Winn precisely because of the ratios, the music and arts programs, and the social-emotional benefits offered by the whole child approach of a Waldorf education. This school and its programs and faculty have made a huge difference for my child, and I would hate to see this special community compromised or harmed due to a lack of vision, creativity, or leadership on the part of the district.

There is nothing we as parents wouldn't do, no lengths we wouldn't go, to ensure the best possible education for our children. When we work together as a community, there is nothing we can't achieve.

Thank you,

Katte Smith, IBCLC, CCE

From: Jessica S
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 12:18 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Regarding Agenda Matter 9.1

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 want to address agenda matter 9.1. My name is Jessica Shaw and I am a parent of two children at A.M. Winn. This is our first year at a public Waldorf school. Prior to that my oldest son was in regular public schools here in Sacramento from preschool until 4th grade; and I have never seen this much growth and confidence in his schoolwork and retaining the lessons than this school year alone. And it's only been a few months! I credit that solely to the teachers and Waldorf curriculum. I cried actual tears of joy that my two sons got into this school after the first few weeks of lessons, emotions that I never experienced feeling for my kids in other public schools. My older son is learning how to play the violin, amongst a bevy of other subjects like botany and ancient world history that was never given this much attention otherwise. My younger son, who is in preschool, has sewed and crafted things I never saw offered to my other son during his time in the regular public school system. They're learning things I didn't even learn until college. So to hear that A.M Winn, Alice Birney and George Washington Carver are on the list for possible closures or revisions sickens me to the core. Do you not realize the gift these children are receiving? People pay \$10,000 and upwards for yearly tuition to attend Waldorf schools in this country for a reason. Here we have been given the gift of an expensive education within the public school system and you dare take that away!? My children are flourishing and its absolutely imperative that A.M. Winn remain open and operating as it has been. I urge you to look at other ways to cut the district's budgets without making changes to any of the public Waldorf schools. My two sons, and countless other students lives depend on this decision.

Thank you for your time,
Jessica Shaw

From: Helga Borrero
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 5:46 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: 9.1 fiscal recovery

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.

Regarding the potential staff reduction and potential closure of school program of Public Waldorf programs. What a great mistake and failure this would be on the behalf of the SCUSD. One of the good things about this district is the fact that you offer specialized programs and schools. Free public Waldorf is a hidden gem and not easy to come by. I cannot express how grateful and excited I was to find out that this district offered Waldorf programs. Furthermore AM Winn offers this to low income and ethnic minorities as well which is a very rare opportunity for these families. I chose to send my child to AM Winn as opposed to our neighborhood school because of the great developmental benefits, philosophy and pedagogy that a Waldorf curriculum entails. A child can be a child at a Waldorf school and learn through play and hands on activities, as opposed to being forced to sit behind a desk and struggle through developmentally inappropriate curriculum the way they do in most other schools. During the pandemic it has been such a blessing to attend a Waldorf school where our family was able to bond and work together and in the end THRIVE because of the project based curriculum that was sent home. It would be not just a shame but utterly detrimental to even consider discontinuing any of the Waldorf programs in the district.

H. Borrero- Manley

From: megrich11
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 12:33 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Board meeting - AM Winn (9.1)

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

To Whom It May Concern,

Hi, my name is Megan Goodin and I'm a parent at A.M. Winn elementary where I have two kids enrolled. This email is in regards to agenda item 9.1 budget cuts. We have been lucky to have found A.M Winn from the beginning of our children's education and am continually impressed with Sacramento leading in public Waldorf education. This school is already struggling to keep aspects of learning that make it a Waldorf school. I have spent many hours in classrooms, as many parents have, helping to fill in the gaps for Spanish, handwork, gardening, woodworking and library time that benefit families from so many backgrounds and it is wonderful to see how much they love these programs. My children have adored looping with their teachers, their imaginations have soared as they have become independent individuals in this family type community. Please don't take from this gem.

Thank you,
Megan Goodin - parent at A.M Winn

From:
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 6:38 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Agenda item 9.1

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

To whom this may concern,

My name is Anna Tigranyan, and I am writing concerning the possible closure of AM Winn.

I have two yuh pung children in the Waldorf program that is part of your district. I heard that the three schools are facing closure, and I am shocked.

When I became a parent, I had no clue what to do. I turned to parenting books to help me navigate my new world. One of my favorites was a book called "simplicity parenting" by Kim John Payne. I fell in love with his tactics. He said that a Waldorf education used these techniques. I decided then that I was going to make sure my children were raised in the Waldorf program. Luckily, the SCUSD had these types of schools. I had to go through the interagency transfer process to get my kids into the school. The process was tedious. I had to take a few vacation days off work to complete it, but it was well worth the hard work. The American education system ranks 27th among the world, and I believe the reason for such a low ranking is due to the fact that kids are forced to learn things that their brains aren't developed enough to handle. The Waldorf curriculum is based on child brain development. A Stanford study found that Waldorf students significantly outperformed their peers by the 8th grade. However, they do not perform at the same level during the earlier years. My children are in the earlier years, and I fear that they will not thrive in a traditional school because they will be behind their new peers. There are many parents with the same concern. Please do not close these schools.

Please consider cutting sports programs in lieu of cutting entire schools. We cannot gather right now, and probably will not be doing so for the foreseeable future.

Thank you,
Anna Tigranyan

From: Miyoung Schoen ·
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:34 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: comment on public waldorf education for the Board Meeting Nov.19

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 submit this comment prior to the Board of Education Meeting on 11/19/2020.

My name is Miyoung Schoen and I have resided in Sacramento County since 2003.

I have four children who received Waldorf education and that was the greatest blessing and gift for them. Two of my children finished public state universities, one with an engineering degree and the other medical school working as a doctor in a hospital in Philadelphia, PA. The other two are taking undergrad courses in state universities. They all received excellent education that puts emphasis on the high achievement and balance among academic, social, emotional, and moral values. Their ability to think and work independently and lead projects with team members collaboratively owes primarily to the project based and well rounded methods of waldorf education. As a parent and staff in waldorf schools I personally encountered thousands of students who have demonstrated excellent citizenship and professional workmanship and leadership.

I have immigrated to the US with two children and they did not learn english before they came here. The local public school that they were placed in did not provide an adequate academic and social environment. But they thrived in the inclusive waldorf pedagogical setting and acquired proficient language skills and all other subjects quickly. I chose waldorf because it was recognized as one of the best educational models by UNESCO, "ideals and ethical principles that correspond to those of UNESCO." A Cambridge report also states that "schools in the state sector could benefit from elements of Waldorf education, such as the emphasis on child development guiding the curriculum and examinations; the attention given to teachers' reflective activity and heightened awareness."

Waldorf education holds high standards in every area of education and needs to have a strong hold and support from the district. My youngest daughter just graduated from George Washington Carver school of Arts and Science this summer and is currently attending UC with a focus on the STEM field. Though she started at the UC a few months ago, she is already placed at the sophomore level due to the college level credits that the Carver high school provided for the students. Despite the resource that Carver received, the fundamental strength and effectiveness of the educational model gave an edge to mitigate the shortage. I must say that the resource and student-teacher ratio at Carver highschool is simply inadequate and they need more teachers.

Sincerely,
Miyoung Schoen