

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Melissa Androlowicz
Comment:	<p>Good Evening SCUSD Board Members, My name is Melissa Androlowicz and I have two sons attending Leonardo da Vinci K-8 School, including a sixth grader. It came as a shock as I perused through all 615 pages of the Budget Agenda to see LdV Middle School Program was on the chopping block (page 396).</p> <p>As a family, we had many reasons for choosing a K-8 school, especially LdV which has an outstanding small middle school program. Their program follows the original LdV charter of thematic arts and science instruction. Without the 1.6 FTE that is proposed as a budget cut, the entire middle school program would not be able to continue as is. My children reside within the EGUSD region, but due to the fact my husband also teaches at LdV, we chose to transfer them to that school. Should this middle school program be slated to be disbanded/eliminated we would not keep them within the SCUSD for Middle School. There is no other middle school within the district that offers the small, safe, and thematic instruction that LdV currently does.</p> <p>I would like these public comments included in the formal record:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. With the outgoing board members, a budget of this nature should not be voted on by the current board as the incoming board members would have to live with the ramifications of the decision. This should be delayed until new board members have adequate time to review all budget documentation.2. Please vote NO to budget cuts to any of the following budget items:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Visual performing artsb. GATE programsc. Elementary athleticsd. Music programs, including voting no to terminate any music credited positions.e. Eliminating the 1.6 FTE LdV position which potentially threatens the entire MS program. <p>Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Melissa Androlowicz</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/8/2020 1:21:03 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Cynthia Welch
Comment:	<p>Dear SCUSD Board,</p> <p>My name is Cynthia Welch and my daughter, Willa is a Sophomore at George Washington Carver High School this year. This is her first year at George Washington Carver (we affectionately refer to it as “Carver”)—in fact, this is her first year at a school in California. My wife and I moved Willa and our younger daughter here from Texas after Willa’s horrific Freshman year filled with severe bullying, racism, and homophobia within a student population of over 3,000 students. As a result of these things, we almost lost our daughter.</p> <p>We came to Carver, hoping for a smaller environment that would provide acceptance and support—and we have found even more than what we hoped to find. Willa has always struggled with fully connecting at school, but at Carver, she is thriving. Her grades have never been so good and she is excited to work on her homework. We can hear the hope in her voice when she talks about college now! When we ask her what has changed, she tells us that her teachers and fellow students at Carver accept and support her—she feels safe to be who she is and learn in the way that works for her. Her mental health has gradually improved through this transition and we are so thankful to see her smiling again! This is the immeasurable value of George Washington Carver High School. Further diminishment or loss of Carver would leave an immense hole in this community and in our daughter’s life specifically.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Cynthia Welch</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/8/2020 10:47:00 AM

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

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

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/8/2020 7:03:09 PM

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

Name:	Nathaniel Green
Comment:	<p>Dear SCUSD school board:</p> <p>I am writing to emlore you not to impose severe budget cuts to GW Carver high school where my son is a sophmore. My son is part of this wonderful program where he has access to the arts, advanced level coursework, college classes, and caring teachers. He is safe and cared for. My son has been a student in SCUSD's public Waldorf schools since he was 5 years old, and the budget cuts proposed to Carver would effectively close down his high school. Please know that this would be heartbreaking for him and for many of his peers who truly value a Waldorf education. Many of us would sadly leave our own SCUSD to pursue a Waldorf education elsewhere at the secondary level.</p> <p>Please support this exemplary high school. Allow this school to advertise its program as VAPA, HISP, and other high enrollment high school programs in the district are allowed to for incoming 8th graders. Allow enrollment processes that support small high schools to grow and thrive.</p> <p>My son and his peers deserve to continue to attend the high quality program with the teachers they respect and love at GW Carver.</p> <p>Please accept the teachers union benefits proposal to negotiate their benefits as long as teachers jobs are protected and programs are left in tact, and take budget cuts to Carver out of budget negotiation discussion.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration,</p> <p>Nathaniel Green Sr.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/8/2020 8:54:04 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Tess Brown
Comment:	<p>My name is Tess Brown, I am a Senior at George Washington High School, I live in Carmichael and would be in San Juan Unified School District. I chose to attend Carver because I was interested in attending a small high school, I was also interested in the arts and science focus at Carver. I wanted to attend a school that would encourage me to grow and learn, as well as challenge myself. Carver is an excellent place to be. Clubs at Carver make safe spaces for students. We host: NAMI, The National Alliance on Mental Illness provides support, education, and awareness; GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance) which provides education, support, and creates a safe space for LGBTQ+ students, as well as welcoming allies. I have been a part of this club all four years of high school, and have been the secretary for the past three years; Femco (Feminist Coalition) educates, and raises awareness surrounding feminist issues, and injustices. Carver also gives the opportunity to students to take ACE and AP classes which can lead to students earning college credit. I have had the opportunity to take ACE and AP classes. This has helped me earn college credit, as well as increasing my chances of getting into colleges. I currently take AP Art, as well as AP Calculus.</p> <p>Carver drew me in, I even changed school districts. I didn't want to be lost at a school with thousands of students. I wanted a more involved and personal experience that would challenge me academically. Before I was at Carver, I wasn't a great student. In middle school I did ok in a few subjects, but others I narrowly passed. At Carver my grades are A's with few B's. Carver helped me flourish as a student. The classes, and teachers kept me engaged. Each day I am ready to pick up my pencil and learn. Carver not only incorporates rigorous art and science programs, but also Social and Environmental Justice conversations into the classroom. Having an understanding of different injustices has helped me see the world in a different way.</p>

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 7:12:52 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Nina Saferstein
Comment:	<p>My name is Nina Saferstein. I attended Alice Birney Waldorf and graduated from George Washington Carver in 2015. I went on to attend Saint Mary's College of California in the San Francisco Bay Area where I graduated with a B.A. in Political Science in 2019.</p> <p>Not only did George Washington Carver prepare me for college and the rigorous coursework, but shaped me into the person I am today. It's hard to put into words the impact Waldorf education has had on my life. How hasn't it? That seems more fitting. Attending George Washington Carver taught me how to be a valuable member of society, how to have love, compassion, and empathy for all people. As a senior in high school, I participated in what was then called the Poverty Project. This was a photo project, and one I reflect on fondly. Students were asked to volunteer at a local nonprofit in the Sacramento area and present their experiences.</p> <p>I grew up in Land Park, an affluent, predominantly white neighborhood in Sacramento, but what I quickly realized was, I didn't have to drive far, to find poverty and inequity in my community. I chose to volunteer with The Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, in Sacramento's Oak Park neighborhood.</p> <p>As a college student, I later went on to work with several nonprofit organizations working to end homelessness, as well as the Sacramento County Courts, and worked alongside attorneys providing legal services for members of the community who could not afford legal representation.</p> <p>Today, at twenty-three years of age, I am the proud owner of one of Sacramento's many small businesses. Each month, my company donates 10% of our proceeds to 501C3s locally, and across the United States fighting for racial equality, LGBTQIA+ and immigrant rights, as well as organizations working to end homelessness. Just this month, my business donated to the very organization I volunteered at nearly 6 years ago, providing meals over 400 meals for Sacramentans in need.</p> <p>My education at Carver had a profound effect on the person I would become, and the person I am today.</p> <p>Any school can produce "successful" students, students who go on to college, and secure employment, but not every school produces students who make valuable contributions to society, to fight what they believe in and make this world a better place for all.</p> <p>I hope you will reconsider cutting George Washington Carver's funding. This would be a grave mistake.</p> <p>Thank you, for your time.</p>

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 7:33:48 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Stevie Cook
Comment:	<p>Dear Superintendent Aguilar and Members of the Board.</p> <p>My name is Stevie Cook and I am one of the founding teachers at George Washington Carver High School. I have been a teacher in the district for nearly 20 years and from time to time I have made public comments including when I won Teacher of the Year in 2013. Tonight, I want to call you out on the “sense of urgency” you are creating around the budget crisis. This, “moving forward no matter what the costs” stance, without school program voices and community member advocates is a classic white supremacist culture tactic.</p> <p>To paraphrase the work of Tema Okun, you are making it, “difficult to take time to be inclusive, encourage democratic and/or thoughtful decision-making, to think long-term or to consider consequences.” This behavior, according to Okun, “frequently results in sacrificing potential allies for quick or highly visible results, for example sacrificing interests of communities of color in order to win victories for white people”.</p> <p>Stop and look at what you are participating in. There is a false narrative being pushed here-- an artificial choice. Those in power are not being transparent. You are creating major barriers to impede the success of alternative programs which serve some of the most marginalized.</p> <p>I implore you to heed Okun’s antidote, “be clear about how you will make good decisions in an atmosphere of urgency; realize that rushing decisions takes more time in the long run because inevitably people who didn’t get a chance to voice their thoughts and feelings will at best resent and at worst undermine the decision because they were left unheard.”</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 8:55:45 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Brian Dolgovin
Comment:	

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 10:03:27 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Michelle Strain
Comment:	<p>G.W. Carver School of Art & Science is the answer for students and families in a one-size-fits-all public education crisis. The children that attend this one of a kind public Waldorf high school are encouraged to learn from stories and from history because it's relevant and it's real. They are taught to make a difference in their world because they belong and because they care.</p> <p>My son Rory, a junior at Carver, is thriving in his school environment. After our very social child attended public school, private Waldorf education, intensive intervention and four years of homeschooling, we finally found Carver his freshman year to hone skills learned to help with his dyslexia and allow him to grow up like a typical teenager among his peers. While it is out of our SJUSD boundary where our daughter, 18 months older, just graduated from our neighborhood Bella Vista High School, we knew that Carver with its Waldorf influence and with the emphasis on arts and science was the right choice for our son. Carver will be the first school that he started and will graduate from with his graduating class. If Carver is no-longer, there is no chance we will stay in the SCUSD.</p> <p>Carver teachers and administrators are caring and compassionate and have built enormous confidence and equality among the student body. They bring out the best in their students, many who might otherwise fall between the cracks without this safe, comforting environment. The similarities my son has found among his many peers along with the school's tutelage to teach lifelong learning skills has propelled him to learn meaningfully and to look at what educational opportunities lie ahead. My son is driven by the college prep coursework offered to all students attending Carver and will even have college credit before graduation because of the school's involvement in AP and ACE classes.</p> <p>G.W. Carver is preparing my son and his classmates to be successful regardless of their challenges. These students have found that their strengths may very well outweigh their weaknesses. They are taught that with grit, character and compassion they will make a difference in this world.</p> <p>Carver fills a hole left by many traditional schools where students don't fall though. Dr. Alessandri and her staff at Carver should be awarded many times over for their commitment to educate all children. While stoking the fire within them, our students learn their commitment to character and community and the importance on finishing what they've started. We ask you educators/administrators let our Carver students lead the example; to be strong within yourself, look at the big picture, talk amongst yourselves and to resolve on the good.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 10:06:35 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Gwynnae Byrd
Comment:	I urge you to wait to vote on a fiscal recovery plan until the new board members are sworn in. It is imperative that all members of the school board have a stake in what they're voting on, and can be held accountable for the consequences of any fiscal decisions made. This is especially true when the district is contemplating severe cuts that will have dire consequences for the children that this district serves. The newly -elected board members should not be able to avoid responsibility for the declining quality in education that our students are likely to receive as a result of the cuts being proposed. Please wait until the next board meeting so that the new board members will have their votes publicly recorded on whether or not they agree with this so-called "recovery" plan.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/9/2020 10:35:26 PM

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

Name:	Cheryl Eining
Comment:	<p>I am writing on behalf of George Washington Carver~School of Arts and Science and Social Justice. I live across the street from the best high school in Elk Grove and choose to drive my grandson 30 miles daily to attend GWC. This school is a direct asset to the District in attracting students outside the District and many who would not choose to attend another district school.</p> <p>With more district support, we can increase enrollment significantly in the future. Equity is a top priority at GWC and should not be squelched by removing funds to keep it afloat. All students are warmly welcomed to GWC. Please allow this safe haven for many disenfranchised youth to continue functioning at its existing level!</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 12:07:31 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Peggie Salazar
Comment:	<p>I would like to address the importance of the Waldorf inspired charter schools. My oldest son attended George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science beginning its first year of existence 13 years ago. Since then, our other 2 children attended all 4 of their high school years there, with our youngest graduating last year. I wish there were words to express my gratitude to the school, the staff and to you for giving my children the opportunity to experience such an incredible education and loving environment. Not all children thrive in large classrooms and crowded campuses. Many children feel lost or unimportant when connections are not made. My children were blessed to attend a school where the teachers knew their names, their siblings names and their parents names. The staff was able to truly get to know their students and the situations that may call for assistance. When the bell rings, they do not have to forget about those kids and move onto the next mass of kids coming in. Some kids really, really need this connection. As far as the education goes, Carver provided my children with an education that granted my daughter and exceptional scholarship to Willamette University. My children know how to think outside of the box. They teach me how to think outside of the box! My children understand that they have voices! That they can make a difference. That it is their responsibility to speak up. They have been given skills to problem solve and skills to destress. Be it through breathing, writing, art, exercise, gardening or handwork. I feel that this is even more important than the education they received because what is the point of a good education if you have no skills to cope with the curve balls life throws you? These Waldorf inspired schools teach our children to thrive in this crazy, unpredictable world. They learn to grow their own food, prepare their food, build structures, sew and knit clothing and so many more real life skills that can empower them! Please see the quality and importance of our communities Waldorf Charter Schools. The world is literally watching this district as it was ahead of its time in creating these amazing schools. The fact that you have been giving low income families access to Waldorf inspired educations is something that you should be so incredibly proud of, not something that you should cut. Thank you so very much for your time.</p> <p>Peggie Salazar, Community Member and Mom!</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 6:55:46 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Nia MooreWeathers
Comment:	<p>Hello SCUSD Board,</p> <p>My name is Nia MooreWeathers, and I am a former student of the SCUSD District and current community organizer for a local non-profit working to support youth development, mental health, and civic advocacy/engagement. I am writing to strongly encourage you to fully fund the George Washington Carver School of Arts and Sciences for the next year, but also to continue funding programs like arts/music, bilingual education, GATE, college readiness, etc.</p> <p>It is imperative that SCUSD consider the impacts of the budget decisions they are about to make. And no, that does not simply mean the financial impacts or savings for the District, but socioemotional impacts as well. Socioemotional impacts was not a category I saw listed in your Budget Impact Summary for Dependent Charter Schools, and that goes to show where District priorities lie at the moment. It's disappointing, but I can't say I'm too surprised as a former student of this District.</p> <p>I can remember very clearly in my mind when art classes were cut at my elementary school in my childhood. I also remember the lack of mental health supports available for students who (I hate to even say) myself and others would gossip about because we didn't know any better. I remember what it felt like when my principal announced there would be only one field trip for non-GATE students, and three for GATE participants, and the shame I felt for receiving more than others.</p> <p>I say all of this so that you understand that decisions like closing George Washington Carver High, a safe haven for marginalized students all across this district and beyond, or nixing bilingual education has lasting impacts not just on the financial stability of this District, but on the stability of young minds. Use the 93 million dollars you have in emergency funding to continue the mission of supporting students best interests. Use the 93 million dollars you have to right institutional inequities. Use the 93 million dollars to keep your promise you made at the beginning of this school year.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 8:34:19 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Nia MooreWeathers
Comment:	<p>Hello SCUSD Board,</p> <p>My name is Nia MooreWeathers, and I am a former student of the SCUSD District and current community organizer for a local non-profit working to support youth development, mental health, and civic advocacy/engagement. I am writing to strongly encourage you to fully fund the George Washington Carver School of Arts and Sciences for the next year, but also to continue funding programs like arts/music, bilingual education, GATE, college readiness, etc.</p> <p>It is imperative that SCUSD consider the impacts of the budget decisions they are about to make. And no, that does not simply mean the financial impacts or savings for the District, but socioemotional impacts as well. Socioemotional impacts was not a category I saw listed in your Budget Impact Summary for Dependent Charter Schools, and that goes to show where District priorities lie at the moment. It's disappointing, but I can't say I'm too surprised as a former student of this District.</p> <p>I can remember very clearly in my mind when art classes were cut at my elementary school in my childhood. I also remember the lack of mental health supports available for students who (I hate to even say) myself and others would gossip about because we didn't know any better. I remember what it felt like when my principal announced there would be only one field trip for non-GATE students, and three for GATE participants, and the shame I felt for receiving more than others.</p> <p>I say all of this so that you understand that decisions like closing George Washington Carver High, a safe haven for marginalized students all across this district and beyond, or nixing bilingual education has lasting impacts not just on the financial stability of this District, but on the stability of young minds. Use the 93 million dollars you have in emergency funding to continue the mission of supporting students best interests. Use the 93 million dollars you have to right institutional inequities. Use the 93 million dollars to keep your promise you made at the beginning of this school year.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 9:24:30 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Peter Castles
Comment:	It is imperative that the district avoid cutting funding for middle school music programs. My son has autism, and his safe refuge at school is the music program. I can't fathom what his life would be like without that safe place and creative outlet. Music is a huge part of his life. Please do the right thing and find a way to avoid making cuts to programs that stimulate community, collaboration, and creative spirit in our schools. Thanks.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 10:49:44 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Brandon Brown
Comment:	<p>My name is Brandon Brown and I graduated from George Washington Carver, SAS in 2016. My experience at Carver was outstanding. The support I received from my teachers and the staff at the school made me the successful person I am today. In high school, I struggled with grades. My teachers were invested in my success, and worked hard with me to improve in my schoolwork. With their guidance, I was able to not only graduate, but also follow my passion and become a pilot before leaving Carver. Today, I am a Global Politics Senior at Cal Poly, SLO and working as a flight instructor when I'm not in class. I would not have gotten the grades to attend this program if it wasn't for the amazing dedication from the teachers at George Washington Carver School of Arts and Sciences. They care more about their students than any other educators I have ever had.</p>

Speaking as: Former student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:14:44 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Lisa Meline
Comment:	I am writing in support of continuing music programs at all grade levels, most critical now are those at our middle schools. These programs feed our high schools music programs (something very important in our community of Rosemont) and support a large percentage of the student population providing breadth, creativity, breadth, mental health, and team-building skills. Every student in a musical ensemble is part of a well-rehearsed team. Don't take away the opportunity for future marching bands, winter percussion, concert bands, orchestras, wind ensembles, and choirs by eliminating music from K-8.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:34:17 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Mia Andrade
Comment:	My name is Mia Andrade, I am a senior at George Washington Carver and have been attending since my freshman year. I have been in Waldorf education since the beginning of kindergarten. This style of learning has given me and others many opportunities to thrive than schools of other methods and teaching styles. At Carver, I have found that this statement holds true. This school and its teaching method have given me a great opportunity to be creative, voice my opinion, and connect with others in a way I wouldn't have been able to at a different school. I have spoken with students who have transferred to Carver, all of which have told me that Carver was the right choice and are much happier with the teaching style and overall environment of the school.

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:36:26 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Rory Pilling
Comment:	<p>Rory Pilling, Senior</p> <p>I ended up at Carver because I had a horrible time in middle school. I was bullied very badly, and I was terrified of going to a school in my area where I'd run into those classmates again. Even though Carver was 40 minutes away, it was my best option. Im transgender, and in middle school I'd dealt with fighting my teachers and classmates every day to use my correct name and pronouns. I was pretty shocked when I came to Carver and went to the office to ask about changing my name in their system and they scheduled an appointment for the next day where I could get my name changed in Infinite Campus. I never had to argue with my teachers about my identity, and I felt much safer pretty immediately. I went on to become the president of our Gender Sexuality Alliance, where I've been actively encouraged to start projects aimed towards helping queer students. We got to have our own dance, we built a mini library with LGBT centered books, and so much more I couldn't even list all of them. Carver has really been the only school I've felt safe and supported in.</p>

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:38:18 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 10, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Kay Davis
Comment:	<p>George Washington Carver provides a different culture and environment to youth that is unique and unlike any other school within the district. Because this school is smaller, it offers safe haven for teenagers that might not exactly be at ease within a larger high school. Carver high school is the only public Waldorf inspired high school in not only the district, but also the nation. These types of programs are extremely important as an option to young teenagers as they take on their high school experience. The importance of art is stressed and is a heavy influence here. Having Carver in this district gives students an option for a safe place to learn as well as express themselves.</p> <p>I am an alumni of Carver, and I could've went to any other school in the Folsom Cordova Unified School District; I chose Carver although it was out of the way and out my district because of all it had to offer. The close knit community made it safe for me to be myself with everyone around me. I learned so much about the content my classes held and life through being able to use art as a form of representation of my knowledge and my self expression.</p> <p>George Washington Carver is an asset to the Sacramento City Unified School District. The proposed cuts would effect such a wonderful place of learning and being; considering all that Carver offers students when it comes to safety and expression, this school district will be lacking without continuing to grow a beautiful program that has seen success on a nationwide scale.</p>

Speaking as: Alumni and community member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/10/2020 11:54:03 AM

From: Maria Smith
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:55 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment for Board Meeting 2020-12-10, Item 8.0

This is Public Comment for Item 8.0

Good evening. Twelve years ago, SCUSD made history by being the first school district to open the first public Waldorf High School in our nation.

My name is Maria Namuco Smith, a Special Education RSP teacher and a proud faculty member at George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science. Thank you to the leaders in this district who had the foresight to see how another alternative to traditional/comprehensive high schools would greatly benefit SCUSD, its community, and the Sacramento region.

Because of the addition of George Washington Carver, SCUSD can also lay claim to being the first school district in the nation to offer public K-12 Waldorf education thanks to the partnership with our sister schools, Alice Birney and A.M. Winn. What a service you have provided to thousands of families through the years in our Sacramento community, our state, and our country! While we SCUSD Waldorf educators are honored to serve the students in SCUSD, are also grateful that so many students and families have trusted us with the education of their children from outside the SCUSD boundaries. This year, nearly 40% of our school population at Carver comes from out of district because families see the benefit of this method of education even if it means driving over an hour each way, to and from our school. Thank you, SCUSD, for being such an integral part of the public Waldorf movement and for helping our teachers and administrators brings this artistic and rich method of education to students in public schools so they, too, can work with their head, heart, and hands to sharpen their thinking, feeling and willing.

In 1919, Rudolf Steiner trained the first Waldorf teachers. To this day, current Waldorf teachers throughout the world are engaging in this work in meaningful ways. I ask the SCUSD Board of Educators to consider the needs of families and students who seek a Waldorf education.

In the words of Rudolf Steiner, "Imbue thyself with the power of imagination, Have courage for the truth, Sharpen thy feeling for responsibility of soul," because "the healthy social life is found, when in the mirror of each individual, the whole community finds its reflection; and when, in the whole community, the strength of each one is living." Good working!

All the best,

Maria Namuco Smith
Special Education Resource Teacher

George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science

From: Tiffany Pritchett
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:59 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Mask Exemptions

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Hey,

I am wondering what SCUSD is going to do, when schools open, about the students that have exemptions from any face covering as outlined in the CA Health Department guidelines and exemptions for face coverings but those same students that are exempt also may not be able to do distance learning either.

Those students that are exempt have every legal right to attend in person class instruction as any other student. They shouldn't be discriminated against just because they have a medical/mental condition that prohibits them from wearing any face covering.

Many students have IEPs, SLD, ADHD, Autism, PTSD, etc and can't do well with distance learning and depend on in class instruction to do well along with getting services under their IEP.

No child should suffer and be disregarded like trash like how my was treated when she cried at the schools front gate begging to join her classmates but was denied entry because she has a medical condition that prohibits her from wearing a mask. She has an IEP and SLD and can't hardly read what's on the screen because she is at 22nd grade reading level being expected to do 6th grade material along with other struggles that make any learning difficult..let alone via distance learning. Its just not possible.

What about kids like her? Her voice matters! She is essential! As schools start to open there will be a lot of kids who are exempt from masks who deserve the same in person education as their peers.

What about them????? What is SCUSD going to do to ensure all the kids don't be disregarded like trash like my daughter Hailey Pritchett was??

Sincerely

Tiffany Pritchett