

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Amber Stott
Comment:	<p>Dear SCUSD Board Members,</p> <p>I write this letter in support of the proposed updates to the Floyd Farms cooking school construction. I write this during a time of national crisis, reflecting on work that has prepared us and our children for this challenge. Pre-COVID, Food Literacy Center was already committed to the principles of public health: rather than waiting until kids are sick, how can we keep them from getting sick in the first place? When SCUSD's board of directors approved this cooking school project, they also signed up for this important work. Eating vegetables is a way to protect kids' health from diet-related diseases, which affect half of all Americans! Like COVID, these chronic diseases can be lethal to our children.</p> <p>Vegetables are a powerful tool! California's Surgeon General called for Californians to maintain a nutritious diet to combat the stress caused by the pandemic. The recession has increased food and nutrition insecurity in our most vulnerable communities. The Black and Brown children we serve are simultaneously experiencing national racism, a form of trauma. Healthy food, when provided with dignity and joy, can heal. Improving food access and repairing a broken food system builds resilience in our communities. Our work has never been more important!</p> <p>I write this with an eye to the future. Our partnership on this new cooking school and student farm will allow us to better serve our children. The commercial kitchen with dry and cold food storage will enable us to feed those without food--and allow local residents to help in the effort. Our student garden and farm will be a public park and outdoor learning area, where traumatized residents and students can be close to nature and begin to heal.</p> <p>Through this crisis, let's focus on building a better future than the past we just left. I believe that kids and carrots can change health inequities in our communities. This project will make sure they have the tools and training to be successful! Thank you for your support of this vital vegetable project!</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

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