

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Special Meeting**  
**September 16, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Jason Landreth
Comment:	<p>I am the Varsity Baseball Coach at JFK. I am a former professional baseball player of 10 years and played Baseball for Texas Tech university. I grew up in Sacramento specifically in the Greenhaven Pocket neighborhood. The JFK Baseball fields look the exact same as they did when I played for Pocket LL back in 1986. Nothing has ever been done to upgrade the fields since the school was built. We don't even have a fence for any of the fields so we are way behind all other programs including Burbank. Our entire Baseball and Softball programs are now suffering from extensive gopher damage to all of the outfields. The fields have gotten so bad that the ground has actually sunken throughout areas of the entire outfield and has become a serious danger to the young student athletes of JFK. We have John Purcell come out and walk the fields and he has admitted that they are now unplayable and needs emergency work done to guarantee the safety of our young student athletes. As a parent of 5 children of my own, and with my experience in organized baseball for 30+ years, I can say these outfields are some of the worst playing surfaces I have ever seen. We have had numerous players fall, trip, and hurt ankles, wrists, and knees already in my short time leading this amazing school. It is only a matter of time before a young man or girl gets seriously injured. I am pleading to the board for help with Measure R!</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/16/2021 11:27:31 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Special Meeting**  
**September 16, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Frank Castillo
Comment:	My son is a Varsity Baseball player for John F. Kennedy HS in Sacramento Ca. Due to the lack of field maintenance the outfield has been deemed unplayable and we are asking for money to have it fixed before the upcoming season. It has been walked by Mr. Purcell and he has seen the danger this field me cause a player if he or she lands in one of the gopher holes. The outfield is infested with gophers. Please supply funds to fix our field so our children can play America's favorite past time safe and sound. Thank you.

Speaking as:          Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp:    9/16/2021 8:22:42 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Special Meeting**  
**September 16, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	ken sano
Comment:	My grandson has been playing baseball for 3 years at Kennedy. The outfield has a lot of "holes" which could cause serious leg injuries. These "holes" are not visible which makes it more dangerous for the players.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/15/2021 9:06:03 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Special Meeting**  
**September 16, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Shelly Kirkland
Comment:	<p>Good Evening Superintendent Aguilar and Board Members,</p> <p>I understand that you have a tremendous responsibility to set priorities and policies for the entire district and I appreciate your commitment to SCUSD. And while I know the needs are many and serious, the baseball fields at John F Kennedy High School are not only deserving but in need of your attention. Gophers have burrowed holes into the field in such a manner that it makes it extremely dangerous for student athletes running on the field. Although we have had amazing support by parent volunteers, we nor the district landscaping crew are successful in combating the issues the gophers have caused. We need a solid solution.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/15/2021 8:55:45 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District

**Board of Education Special Meeting**

**September 16, 2021 Public Comments**

<p>Name:</p>	<p>Stacy Corcoran</p>
<p>Comment:</p>	<p>Dear Superintendent, School Board Members, and Councilmember,</p> <p>I'm writing today as a concerned parent of a John F. Kennedy high school student who plays baseball at the school. Last year, during the COVID-shortened season, the condition of the fields was bordering on dangerous, with: gopher holes; dry patchy grass; and uneven playing surfaces. Understanding that the fields were poorly maintained due to COVID shutdowns and staffing shortages, we parents did what we could to get the field in somewhat playable condition.</p> <p>However, upon returning to the school this fall, we found that gophers have now overrun the baseball and softball fields creating tunnels, sinkholes, ramps and valleys and sections of dead grass that are beyond the abilities of a few parents to pitch in and repair.</p> <p>We need the school district to address the lack of maintenance at the field.</p> <p>Our student athletes, scheduled to report for practice in January, are at great risk for serious injury if nothing is done by the Sacramento Unified School District to fix the fields. At this point I'm not wondering IF a student will be injured, but only WHEN ANOTHER STUDENT WILL BE INJURED? Our student athletes have ALREADY been injured by stepping into gopher holes and balls taking bad hops. And a parent was injured by a ball that went through a hole in the netting last season and had to go to the emergency room. We were told a work order was submitted last year for that repair, yet the netting still has holes.</p> <p>The school has been notified that dangerous conditions exist on the baseball/softball fields and nothing is being done to remedy them. I implore you to address the conditions at these fields BEFORE a player is injured and sues the district, not after.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. Best regards,</p> <p>Stacy Corcoran</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/15/2021 12:46:19 PM

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**From:** shelly kirkland  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 8:58 PM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Subject:** 10.2 Bond Oversight Committee Measures Q and R Annual Report 2020-2021)

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Good Evening Superintendent Aguilar and Board Members,

I understand that you have a tremendous responsibility to set priorities and policies for the entire district and I appreciate your commitment to SCUSD. And while I know the needs are many and serious, the baseball fields at John F Kennedy High School are not only deserving but in need of your attention. Gophers have burrowed holes into the field in such a manner that it makes it extremely dangerous for student athletes running on the field. Although we have had amazing support by parent volunteers, we nor the district landscaping crew are successful in combating the issues the gophers have caused. We need a solid solution.

Shelly Kirkland  
Parent, John F Kennedy High School

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**From:** Ron Johnson <  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 11:58 AM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Subject:** 10.2 Bond Oversight Committee Measures Q and R Annual Report 2020-2021

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.

Matter #: 10.2 Bond Oversight Committee Measures Q and R Annual Report 2020-21

Public Member: Ron Johnson

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my concern about the health and safety issues related to the poor conditions of the John F. Kennedy baseball and softball fields. As a parent of a sophomore student at the school who plays baseball for the team, I am highly concerned about the conditions that the fields are currently in.

Typically when I attend games I set up my chair down the left field line so that I can enjoy watching the game without the intensity of the crowds and to give my son space to compete and have fun without having to hear dad's voice. It's a great way to watch a ballgame, but also has provided a unique firsthand view of the gopher problem our children face at the field during the action. During one game in May, I witnessed a gopher popping its head out of the ground about 10 feet in front of me, and only a foot or two away from other spectators who were startled, to say the least. Later that game, another popped its head out a few feet from the opposing team's left fielder. He and I had a quick laugh about it, however it's not really a laughing matter. That is two incidents during a two-hour game. I can only imagine what our volunteer parents must deal with trying to ensure those hazards are fixed so that our children can play safely.

Sure, we can continue to kick the can down the road on this issue – but at what cost? These fields are a huge liability, and all it takes is one child tearing up his knee on a gopher hole to be exposed as such. A quick google search this morning shows these types of incidents happen more than one might think. Among other more recent examples, in 2015 a San Diego man won a \$450,000 settlement after injuring his knee on a gopher-infested soccer field in Ocean Beach. This man won his case for damages due in large part to a history of complaints from others, with the city failing to safely maintain the field.

The federal government has rightfully prioritized funding for school health and safety issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic, to ensure our children can return to school safely. This too is a health and safety situation, and it needs to be dealt with by professionals. Our children deserve action here. It is our moral obligation to ensure their safety while on a public-school campus.

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**From:** Shawn Lyons  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 10:56 AM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Subject:** Kennedy Baseball/Softball Fields are Gopher Infested

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Hello,

Kennedy High School is in dire need of new baseball and softball fields. We are continually fighting gopher holes and sunken tunnels which are going to lead to injuries to our players and visiting schools. I have spent well over 10 hours in the last year working with other parents attempting to keep the fields safe. It is frustrating to see these others schools around us with all new sports fields while our baseball/softball fields stay neglected by the district. We currently cant even water our JV field.

We need the school district to step up to the plate and get these fields updated to stay on par with other schools in and our of district.

Sincerely,

*Shawn Lyons*

Sales Manager

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**From:** Randy Shem <[redacted]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 10:15 PM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Subject:** John F. Kennedy High School Baseball and Softball Field

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 writing to express concern over the safety of the grass fields that encompass the baseball and softball fields at John F. Kennedy High School.

Gophers have overrun the baseball and softball fields creating tunnels, sinkholes, ramps and valleys and sections of dead grass. Our student athletes are at risk for serious injury if nothing is done by the District to fix the fields. I have included photos of the condition of the fields for you to see how bad it is out there.

If nothing is done immediately then the team's risk playing somewhere other than at Kennedy for the Spring season. No team will want to risk injury playing at Kennedy, which will cause any home game to be played at a neutral site. Who will be responsible for the cost to rent an alternative site for an entire season?

Thank you.

Randy Shem

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**From:** joyce fong  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 7:53 AM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Subject:** JFK High School field issue

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 understand that the fields where the student athletes play sports STILL have an ongoing problem with gopher holes, etc. This is a very dangerous situation and remains a serious problem.

My daughter attended school here over 20 years ago. While playing sports in the field during that time, she sprained her ankle due to stepping into one of the gopher holes and today, still has a weak ankle and it has never been the same.

This problem needs to be addressed and corrected. I suspect that there have been many injuries throughout the years and potentially more if it's not resolved. The school and district needs to face the problem.

Thank you.

Joyce Fong