

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 21, 2024

Written Public Comments

Name:	Beth Storelli Smoker
School:	Washington Elementary
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Re: We need your help to alleviate our long waitlists and improve the enrollment process for the after school program at Washington Elementary</p> <p>Dear SCUSD Board of Education:</p> <p>The Locomotive Community Organizers—the parent organizers at Washington Elementary—are writing with a timely request to help alleviate our long waitlists and improve the enrollment process for after school care in six specific ways described below.</p> <p>Our school is fortunate enough to have an amazing after school program—the STEAM Academy—run by Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center (“The Center”). Over the past few years, the program has become in high demand with 90-95% of our students applying for the program. Unfortunately, not all of our students have been enrolled in the program due to insufficient staffing at The Center. For the past 6 months parents with unenrolled students have had to make-do with less-than-ideal arrangements. Even more, many of these families believed that after school care was guaranteed, as per a statement on SCUSD’s website: https://www.scusd.edu/transitional-kindergarten. We know this problem is not unique to only our school, but rather systemic across the district, and hope that our requests below, benefit others as well.</p> <p>Our TK/Kinder waitlist is especially high due to the lower team leader to student ratio requirements, with over 30 students still waiting for placement for the 2023-2024 school year.</p> <p>We’ve been in very close communication with leadership at The Center, both onsite and with their headquarters, who are working hard to recruit, screen, train, and retain team leaders. We’ve spent the last 6 monthly Locomotive Community Organizer (LCO) meetings discussing this issue, learning the main obstacles for this shortcoming and brainstorming potential solutions.</p> <p>We’ve identified six solutions that SCUSD Board of Education has power over, which are actions that can happen immediately:</p>

1. Please allow the Custodian of Record at The Center to clear background checks. Currently, all background checks for potential after school team leaders are reviewed by SCUSD staff, which can take anywhere from 2 weeks to a couple months. While we are thankful you have recently hired additional staff to help with this task and reduce wait times, if this task could be authorized for Custodian of Record at The Center, potential team leaders could be cleared in just 24-48 hours, meaning the hiring process is faster and more students can move off the waitlist, alleviating more families of the stress they've been enduring for the past 6 months. There are precedents for this. Currently, the Custodian of Record at The Center has this ability for multiple other districts. This is one small solution to address the immediate need on our campus.

2. Post the After School Enrollment Forms for the next school year as early as possible. The Center cannot start offering their current team leaders another year of employment or hiring for the next school year until the 24-25 enrollment has been opened. The Center does not post the enrollment forms, they have to wait for the District to do this. **We are requesting that After School Enrollment Forms for the school year 2024-2025 be posted as soon as possible and no later than March 22nd.** This is one solution that can happen now to begin getting ahead of this problem for next year. We cannot continue to have our families annually traumatized about whether or not their kids make it into the after school program.

3. Increase the funding for the after school program so that The Center can raise their minimum hourly wage in order to recruit and retrain staff. In April of this year, fast food workers will begin making \$20/hr and our schools need to be competitive with this rate in order to ensure our students and families have the care they deserve.

4. Make good on your promise that “TK students are guaranteed a spot in the [after school] program”. Let's ensure this is actually a guarantee.

5. Notify new TK and/or Kinder families about After School Enrollment once it opens. Many of these families are brand new to SCUSD and have zero way of receiving information about the after school programs at their school other than word-of-mouth or getting lucky that they checked their school website in a timely manner to make it on the waitlist.

6. Guarantee After School care if you apply by a clearly communicated specific date. For the past few years, parents have shared the anxiety they experience of not finding out if their child has secured a spot in the After School program until only a few DAYS before the first day of school.

We welcome other creative ideas that you may have. **We respectfully ask for a response by April 10th** so that we may discuss it and any next steps at our April 10th LCO Meeting.

We welcome response in any of the below forms:

Email: Beth Smoker, LCO Member, [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

In-person: Attend April 10th LCO meeting at Washington Elementary

Sincerely,
Katy Robb, LCO President

Washington Elementary Parent, Kindergarten & Third Grade
Rachel Libby, LCO Room Parent Coordinator
Washington Elementary Parent, Second, Fourth &, Fifth Grade
Franny Subang, LCO Treasurer
Washington Elementary Parent, Third Grade
Mallory Ullman , LCO Secretary
Washington Elementary Parent, Transitional Kindergarten & Second Grade
Beth Smoker, LCO Member
Washington Elementary Parent, Kindergarten

CC: Dr. Gemma Godina, Principal, Washington Elementary

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 21, 2024

Written Public Comments

Name:	Lyndsey Reed
School:	Washington Elementary
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>My name is Lyndsey Reed and I am the parent of a 3rd grader at Washington Elementary. I am writing with a timely request to help alleviate our long waitlists and improve the enrollment process for after school care.</p> <p>My daughter has been denied a spot in the after-school program for two years in a row, leaving me scrambling the week before school starts to figure out a childcare solution. As a single parent who works full time, this creates an impossible situation for me.</p> <p>I also happen to know another family who, when faced with not getting a spot in after-school care, withdrew their child from Washington Elementary and are now stuck paying private school tuition because they had no other option.</p> <p>The After School program has become in high demand with 90-95% of our students applying for the program. Unfortunately, not all of these students have been enrolled in the program due to insufficient staffing at The Center with families of the unenrolled students having to make-do with less-than-ideal arrangements.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that SCUSD do the following to help with this problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please allow the Custodian of Record at The Center to clear background checks• Post the After School Enrollment Forms for the next school year as early as possible• Increase the funding for the after school program so that The Center can raise their minimum hourly wage in order to recruit and retain staff• Guarantee After School care if you apply by a clearly communicated specific date <p>Every student at Washington Elementary should have a spot in after-care. This is an urban school full of children with working parents AND single parents. Please put the resources where they are needed.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lyndsey Reed</p>

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 21, 2024

Written Public Comments

Name:	Julia Audell
School:	Washington Elementary
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Julie Audell and I am the parent of a 2nd grader at Washington Elementary and am writing with a timely request to help alleviate our long waitlists and improve the enrollment process, as well as the capacity of after school care services in-general.</p> <p>My daughter has never been allowed in STEAM. We simply can't get in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I'm not "low-income" (Ok, fine- so I'll pay?? Nope! Not an option.)• I don't need lengthy, extended hours of care. The families are not invited to attend STEAM if the students won't be staying long enough. So, since my child 'only' needs to stay until 4:30, she can't 'get in' because they need to prioritize the families that need student care until 5-6pm. Again- I get it. So where <i>DOES</i> my child go from school release (2pm / 3pm) until 4:30??• State workers (such as me) are being mandated to return to their offices, 2xs a week. I won't be able to manage dropping off/ picking my daughter up from school anymore and I have no idea what I can do, despite researching all that I can. Especially since we won't require fulltime M-F- we will only need a few days, which could help alleviate positions in aftercare. <p>We need help!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The After School program has become in high demand with 90-95% of our students applying for the program. Unfortunately, not all of these students have been enrolled in the program due to insufficient staffing at The Center with families of the unenrolled students having to make-do with less-than-ideal arrangements.</i> <p>I respectfully ask that SCUSD do the following to help with this problem:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please allow the Custodian of Record at The Center to clear background checks.2. Post the After School Enrollment Forms for the next school year as early as possible.

3. Increase the funding for the after-school program so that The Center can raise their minimum hourly wage in order to recruit and retrain staff.
4. Make good on your promise that “TK students are guaranteed a spot in the [after school] program.”
5. Notify new TK and/or Kinder families about After School Enrollment once it opens.
6. Guarantee After School care if you apply by a clearly communicated specific date.
7. Consider more guidance on flexibility for families who may only need 2-3 days of care, or earlier pick-up times, while still allowing them into the program.

Sincerely,
Julie Audell

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 21, 2024

Written Public Comments

Name:	Kelly Stout
School:	Washington Elementary
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>My name is Kelly Stout and I am the parent of a current 3rd grader and Kinder at Washington Elementary School. I am writing with a timely request to help alleviate our long waitlists and improve the enrollment process for before and after school care.</p> <p>Since I have had children at in person learning, before and afterschool program availability have been a high stress point. As an only parent, hoping for child care doesn't cut it. Waiting until a week before school starts doesn't cut it. Announcing a summer program after everyone has had to already spring our savings for exorbitant summer camps doesn't cut it. There is no plan B. There are no options if care is not available at the school, and I am a parent with resources! What about the parents who have to make the horrible choice of leaving a CHILD at home alone so they can work since our district and community cannot offer a safe place for their school aged child.</p> <p>The time is NOW to take this seriously. To offer livable wages to the Center staff who care for our children. Absolutely everything this district thinks they are doing right is at complete odds with how you treat the availability of before & after school care.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that SCUSD do the following to help with this problem:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 - please allow the custodian of record at The Center to clear background checks2. Post the after school enrollment forms for the next school year by March 1st.3. Increase the funding for the after school program so that The Center can raise their minimum hourly wage in order to recruit and retain staff. McDonald's workers make more money than the people helping to raise the next generation!!!4. Make good on your promise that all SCUSD students are provided with before and after care.5. Notify new TK and/or Kinder families about after school enrollment once it opens.6. Guarantee before/after school care if you apply by a clearly communicated specific date <p>Sincerely, Kelly Stout</p>

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 21, 2024

Written Public Comments

Name:	Ana Manzano Fairbairn
School:	Washington Elementary
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>My name is Ana Manzano Fairbairn and I am the parent of a TK and first grader at Washington Elementary and am writing with a timely request to help alleviate our long waitlists and improve the enrollment process for after school care.</p> <p>The After School program has become in high demand with 90-95% of our students applying for the program. Unfortunately, not all of these students have been enrolled in the program due to insufficient staffing at The Center with families of the unenrolled students having to make-do with less-than-ideal arrangements.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that SCUSD do the following to help with this problem:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please allow the Custodian of Record at The Center to clear background checks2. Post the After School Enrollment Forms for the next school year as early as possible3. Increase the funding for the after school program so that The Center can raise their minimum hourly wage in order to recruit and retrain staff4. Make good on your promise that “TK students are guaranteed a spot in the [after school] program”5. Notify new TK and/or Kinder families about After School Enrollment once it opens6. Guarantee After School care if you apply by a clearly communicated specific date <p>Sincerely, Ana Manzano Fairbairn</p>

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 21, 2024

Written Public Comments

Name:	Jackie Nguyen
School:	Washington Elementary School
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Good morning SCUSD,</p> <p>My name is Jackie Nguyen. My husband Ephraim Egan is cc'ed on this email. We are the parents of Jaelyn Nguyen Egan. Jaelyn is in Kindergarten at Washington Elementary and we are writing with a timely request to help alleviate our long waitlists and improve the enrollment process for afterschool care.</p> <p>We signed up on the interest list to be a part of STEAM in the summer of 2023. There was very minimal communication from the district about updates on the waiting list. Even when we reached out to Zia, there was no response. We were told by our principal that the district hired 4 more staff and that Kinder will have an opportunity to be a part of STEAM. This was in late August 2024. Since August, we did not have any communication, neither from the school or the district. When we researched before and after-school programs and resources at other schools in the districts, we could see that they had more available while our school wasn't given the same priority and urgency. The STEAM program has become in high demand with 90-95% of our students applying for the program. Unfortunately, not all of these students have been enrolled in the program due to insufficient staffing at The Center with families of the unenrolled students having to make do with less-than-ideal arrangements. We've also sent an email with the advocacy letter in the email to publiccomment@scusd.edu.</p> <p>We respectfully ask that SCUSD do the following to help with this problem:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please allow the Custodian of Record at The Center to clear background checks2. Post the After School Enrollment Forms for the next school year as early as possible (thank you for posting last Friday!)3. Increase the funding for the afterschool program so that The Center can raise their minimum hourly wage in order to recruit and retrain staff4. Make good on your promise that "TK students are guaranteed a spot in the [after school] program"5. Notify new TK and/or Kinder families about After School Enrollment once it opens

6. Guarantee after-school care if you apply by a clearly communicated specific date

Sincerely,

Jackie Nguyen and Ephraim Egan

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Please feel free to contact me at any time...

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 21, 2024

Written Public Comments

Name:	Erin Quindo
School:	Washington Elementary
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>My name is Erin Quindo and I am the parent/guardian of a kindergarten student at Washington Elementary and am writing with a timely request to help alleviate our long waitlists and improve the enrollment process for after school care.</p> <p>I have been assigned to Washington Elementary per the home school area standards of the district. However, there are disproportionate services being offered to students and families across the school district, akin to disparate impact discrimination. Depending on what school you are relegated to depending on your address, children are provided with widely different after school care options and services. Currently, I have to take lunch breaks at my place of employment one hour later every day, pick up my son on my lunch break, then drive him out to Elk Grove to the closest available daycare center, then return back to my place of employment downtown. I pay \$880 a month just for the additional daycare cost. The district requires my son attend this school, yet simultaneously does not provide required after school care services for employed parents, services that are offered to other families at other schools within the same district.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that SCUSD do the following to help with this problem:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please allow the Custodian of Record at The Center to clear background checks2. Post the After School Enrollment Forms for the next school year as early as

possible

3. Increase the funding for the after school program so that The Center can raise their minimum hourly wage in order to recruit and retrain staff
4. Make good on your promise that “TK students are guaranteed a spot in the [after school] program”
5. Notify new TK and/or Kinder families about After School Enrollment once it opens
6. Guarantee After School care if you apply by a clearly communicated specific date

Sincerely,

Erin Quindo

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 21, 2024

Written Public Comments

Name:	Elizabeth Campbell
School:	Umoja
Agenda Item #	9.3
Comment:	<p>I am writing to strongly protest the proposal to extend the school year in fall of 2024, particularly the part about potentially not advising families of the change until May 15, 2024. Four months is not enough time. People are making childcare arrangements for summer now, in March. I am on the board of directors for a nonprofit that runs childcare facilities and holds summer camps, and I promise you that staffing and facility decisions for those programs are being made now, not in May, not in August.</p> <p>Of slightly less concern but still important: many parents, especially in health care fields, have to make their time off requests far in advance. People have vacations planned for those last weeks in August. If people have to choose between sending their kids to school or losing out on unrefundable payments that they probably had to save up for, you are going to see a lot of absenteeism in that extra week.</p> <p>Most importantly, the blithe suggestion to wait until May to tell us if our kids have to go to school in August tells me how that, as usual, absolutely no one in this decision-making process was looking out for the realities of working families. Childcare in this city is an absolute nightmare, particularly in the summer. Does the board even know that? I don't expect the teachers union to care because it's not their purview, but surely the board should think about families.</p> <p>If you need to keep up this charade that kids can "make up" lost learning from two years by going to school for an extra week next year – which is patently ridiculous, they aren't even the same kids, this is theater – then how about trading three days at Thanksgiving, a break that is terrible for all working families except for those who happen to be SCUSD teachers. Nobody else gets a week off for Thanksgiving, and it's a terrible time to find childcare. If you kept schools open Monday through Wednesday of Thanksgiving week, every working parent in the district would rejoice.</p> <p>I am very glad that our board and our teachers union are finally working together and that we have abandoned the acrimonious relationship of years past. But it is disheartening to see that, as usual, kids and working families are not part of your concern.</p>

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 21, 2024

Written Public Comments

Name:	Lisa Yarbrough
School:	Miwok Middle School & West Campus
Agenda Item #	9.3
Comment:	<p>I have an 8th grader at Miwok Middle School and a 10th grader at West Campus and I am very concerned about the agreement between SCTA and the district to add 8 days to the beginning of the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years. While I understand the financial need to recoup the 8 days the students and teachers were out of school during the strike adding 8 days this August is not feasible. Many people already have summer plans and there are better ways to add additional instructional time. For example, start school 3 days early on Monday, August 26 instead of Thursday, August 29 and take away the holiday for Lincoln's birthday which no one else gets off except SCUSD. And perhaps extend the school year a few days. There are other ways to recoup this time that does not put a huge imposition on families. I urge you to work with district staff and SCTA to find a different way to recouping the lost time as the current plan will just result in a large number of absences which will impact student performance, teacher productivity, and ADA. I look forward to hearing from you.</p>

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 21, 2024

Written Public Comments

Name:	Kimberly Buchholz
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	9.3
Comment:	<p>I am a parent with two young children in elementary school in this District. I am writing about the potential addition of 16 instructional days for students in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic calendars. Until the District posted the February 6, 2024, Proposed Settlement Agreement and the subsequent the Learning Recovery Plan, families in the District were unaware and unable to meaningfully provide input on how any plan might be implemented. There has been a shocking lack of transparency on behalf of the District, who routinely loses sight of the families and students it purports to serve. Our own principal also was unaware of the processes and implementation that led to the Settlement Agreement and Recovery Plan.</p> <p>I am writing to strongly oppose the current Learning Recovery Plan. I urge the District to delay submitting any until at least some of the 40,000 students and their families have the opportunity to provide input. My understanding is that such a delay to consider the opinions and suggestions of these families could lead to additional minutes and days to be added to the 25/26 and 27/28 school years. That is fine by me and the many families that already have planned on a school start date late this August. SCUSD is the only District that regularly fails to provide families with advance notice of academic calendars. Since my children have attended school here, the District has failed to provide timely notice of the following school year's start date. This is symptomatic of the larger issue where the District prioritizes the SCTA at the expense of the families and students.</p> <p>Shortly after returning to school in-person following the COVID pandemic, the SCTA struck and created 8 days of learning loss for my children (not to mention emotional turmoil and stress for families across the District). Now, two years later, the District and SCTA are seeking to punish students again by making them attend an additional 16 days of school. What is the actual learning recovery for students who will be more than two years removed from the date of the strike? It is incumbent on the District to solicit input from families on what might actually be covered in those additional 16 days.</p>

I strongly oppose submitting any plan to the State BOE until families have had the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the creation of such a plan.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Buchholz

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 21, 2024

Written Public Comments

Name:	Anna Molander Hermann
School:	West Campus, Crocker Riverside
Agenda Item #	9.3
Comment:	<p>I am the parent of 3 children in our District. I am writing in opposition to the proposed Learning Recovery Plan adding 8 school days in Fall 2024 and 8 school days in Fall 2025, more than 2 years after just 8 days were lost to the strike. The District's 40,000 students and their families bore the brunt of the original 8 missed school days and are now being punished again. You have not consulted with families whatsoever on this issue. We're tired of being the last to know. We're tired of being at the whim of the District. These decisions have extremely real and hard impacts on families, none of which has been taken into consideration in this plan. We strongly urge the Board to seek MEANINGFUL family and student input before agreeing to any "learning recovery" with the State. The failure of the District to reach an agreement years ago should not be solved on the backs of students and the adults who support them. It's time for the adults in this District to remember who they are serving, the students and their families. We need our Board to fight for our children and fight for a far better and SCUSD student-tailored deal with the State.</p>