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**From:** Janessa Stewart  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 9:26 AM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Cc:** Christina Pritchett; Victoria Flores  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Board Meeting 2/17/22 RE: Agenda Item 8.2

Good Morning SCUSD Board Members,

I am the mother of a high school student here in SCUSD, and I am writing to you today to express my concern and frustration with the continued COVID-related policies and procedures in place that appear to have no off-ramp in sight.

After this past weekend's Super Bowl game at SoFi stadium with 80,000+ people- nearly all unmasked and not socially distanced (including one of the board members of the CTA itself, and many other government leaders and celebrities), how can anyone in good conscious continue to promote and enforce masking of our children in schools, especially outdoors like SCUSD is? The harm that is being caused to their development and growth is far greater than any small benefit they bring - which even top health and medical organizations are recognizing and acknowledging. How can our children learn to speak and read, when they can't see others faces sounding out words and letters? How can our children learn empathy and pick up on facial cues with others when they can only see half their face? You put a lot of time and energy into supporting the mental health and "Social Emotional Learning" of our children, well I and many other parents believe the best thing you can do to improve those areas is to make masks optional and let them have a return to normalcy with their campus activities, extracurriculars, events and dances and such.

At this point, every adult has had nearly a year to get vaccinated if they so choose to. At this point, all school aged children have also been able to get vaccinated if their parents so chose to. At this point, there are an apparent abundance of N95's and KN95's for anyone who wants one. At this point, I would hope most understand the role of a healthy diet and exercise as well in the mitigation of COVID (considering the biggest risk factors are obesity, diabetes, and heart disease)....so now the time has come to get back to **real** normal and make vaccination and mask-wearing a choice left to us parents.

As this Omicron surge has affected plenty of vaccinated and boosted students and staff right along with those who are vax-free, how can you in good conscious continue with your own mandate for vaccination for COVID in order to attend in-person school? If anyone thinks "normal" will return once enough people are vaccinated (as your own social media posts continually try to claim "Hang out with your friends again! Get vaccinated!" ), I would urge you to look at your own dashboard numbers of positive cases at schools that have the highest vaccination rates, like West Campus for example. How is it that a school that has a student vaccination rate of over 93% (as of 2/1/22), they still managed to have nearly 10% of their student population contract COVID in January? In comparison, Rosemont High School has just a 58% reported student vaccination rate and only had 10.5% positive cases? If the numbers are to be trusted in the dashboard, I would say that basic understanding of statistics is that vaccination made no real impact in case transmission rates after all. If what we were led to believe was true (that SCUSD continues to push - getting vaxxed will let us get back to "normal") , you would expect at least double the number of cases at Rosemont High, if not 3x's the amount since their vaccination rate is 35% less then West Campuses, but instead, the difference in case amounts was **not even 1 whole**

**percentage point.** This is all the proof I need to see to know this is not working the way you have been touting it!

My son is nearly failing his freshmen year as-is. The stress and uncertainty of not knowing if he'll be able to still attend school in-person should the PBE allowance be removed in the future is greatly affecting his education and well-being. He wants to be with his friends, and in the special programs and clubs he's in (that we moved to this area for in the first place!), but if push comes to shove and he gets forced into Independent Study over his vaccination status at some point, I will pull him with a quickness and move to another area where in-person learning is open for all if I have to. If you put a survey out to the parents who haven't submitted any info yet for an exemption or vax status, I'm sure you'll find I'm not the only one who feels this way.

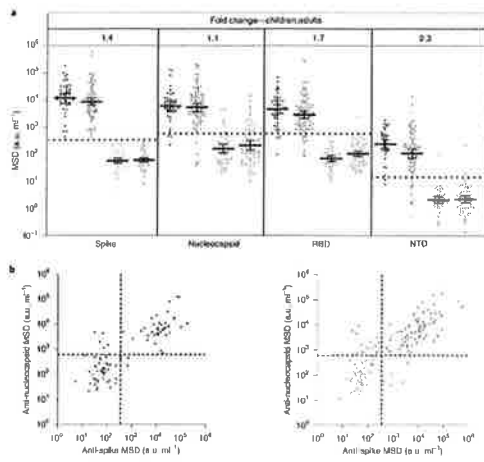
My son has naturally-acquired immunity to COVID now, and his natural immunity should not be ignored and should be treated the same as those who've been vaccinated. Ironically, he caught COVID from his vaccinated friends! I'm not even mad that he got it from them, I knew it was bound to happen eventually as illness is a necessary and important part of growing up and building an immune system, and COVID will always be around and something we need to learn to live with. His illness was no different or worse than any other prior cold or flu he had pre-covid in fact. We treated him the same way we had any other illness - with immune-supporting healthy foods and vitamins, plenty of fresh air, fluids, rest and some time out in the sun everyday for Vit. D. What I am mad about is the fact that because he is not vaccinated, he is treated differently than those who've gotten the shot, even though his symptoms were less severe than many of his vaccinated peers! His natural immunity should be recognized and treated as if he were vaccinated. More and more studies are showing that natural immunity in children especially is robust and long lasting\* - even longer than most of the shots in adults! Now we have hundreds, if not thousands of students and staff that have naturally-acquired immunity too. How can you continue to ignore this fact? "Follow the science" right? Or does that just apply to the science that fits your agenda?

Our children have sacrificed and suffered enough. The time is now to restore normalcy, to remove all mandates and end this supposed "State of Emergency". Let parents decide what is best for our children and end your resolution till the State itself can figure out if their mandate will even come to fruition. No other districts in our county are imposing a vaccination mandate at this time, and most don't require outdoor masking either. Even LAUSD has delayed theirs till the fall. Enough is enough, and parents like myself are fed up with the fear-mongering, the inconsistencies from school site to school site, the hypocrisy of our "leaders", and are ready to get on with our lives. Our least vulnerable population (children) should not be the most restricted. "Put children first" as your slogan states, and return their normalcy now.

Sincerely,

Janessa Stewart  
Rosemont Resident

\*Study on children's 'robust and sustained' immune response following COVID infection:  
[https://www.nature.com/articles/s41590-021-01089-8?fbclid=IwAR39Rtw9z84y7P2eaxOhXfiN8taAnHwFEXqZCyYBFWe\\_oZCujH-F8KP-Rxg#Sec2](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41590-021-01089-8?fbclid=IwAR39Rtw9z84y7P2eaxOhXfiN8taAnHwFEXqZCyYBFWe_oZCujH-F8KP-Rxg#Sec2)



Children develop robust and sustained cross-reactive spike-specific immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 infection | Nature Immunology

SARS-CoV-2 infection is milder in children, but direct comparison with adults is rare. Here the authors show that immune responses are higher in children, retained for 12 months or longer and can ...

[www.nature.com](http://www.nature.com)

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**From:** Cori's Yahoo  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 13, 2022 8:05 AM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Subject:** Optional masking outdoors

Dear board members,

I am a parent of a 1st and 4th grader at Alice Birney. I reviewed your Agenda for this latest meeting with a hope you would discuss your current masking policies. Sadly, this is not an agenda item. I'm writing to the board to add this item to the February 17th agenda or call a special meeting to address your "above and beyond" outdoor masking policy.

I am urging the board to drop their current mandatory outdoor masking policy for our children. Please give our kids the opportunity to see each other's faces. To play and communicate with full facial expressions. To see each other smile and laugh without masks outdoors.

This is the current CDC guidelines for K-12 children directly from their website:

#### Recess and Physical Education

In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors (e.g., participating in outdoor play, recess, and physical education activities).

For reasons unknown, our district continues the mandatory outdoor masking for our schools. At this point, it is becoming clear we are doing more harm than good especially to our younger children. I'm imploring the board to follow CDC guidelines and make outdoor masking optional in our schools.

Thank you,

Cori Preheim  
Parent

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**February 17, 2022 Public Comments**

Name:	Amanda Connolly
Comment:	It is time to remove the mask mandates in our schools. If CA Governor Gavin Newsom and the CA Teachers' Association Board of Directors member Jesse Aguilar, can be maskless at an NFL game, against their local mandates at that time, my children can dump their masks at school. No more "rules for thee but not for me" attitude from our elected public servants. My daughter caught covid despite being vaccinated, masked and distanced at school and none of the rest of our family got it. So, it's time for our school system and their unions to stop this nonsense. When Harvard and Yale study the rates of transmission of covid in masked and un masked schools and find no appreciable difference in transmission, we have to admit the masks don't make a difference now. It's time for SCUSD to to fall in line with the current scientific evidence and our community rules as a whole. If you want your kids to wear a mask fine but it should be a parent's choice, not an SCUSD command.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2022 11:14:37 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**February 17, 2022 Public Comments**

Name:	Amanda Connolly
Comment:	It's time to go back to in person public school board meetings. At this point it seems cowardly not to. Also, your delay between meetings and minutes/comments posting is as atrocious now as it was at the beginning of the zoom meetings and lockdown. I won't attribute to malice what can easily be attributed to incompetence but it gets harder as more time goes by.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2022 11:21:31 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**February 17, 2022 Public Comments**

Name:	Ejiro Okoro
Comment:	1. Thorough investigation and prosecution of hate crimes 2. More support at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School specifically for African American students and other students of color 3. Zero tolerance policy on all racist acts and hate crimes 4. More culturally relevant curriculum and trainings for all teachers, parents and students 5. Recognize the accomplishments of African Americans during Black History Month. Integrate African Americans' rich history and contributions to America in the mainstream curriculum.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2022 2:52:27 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**February 17, 2022 Public Comments**

Name:	Mariah Cook
Comment:	<p>Dear Board,</p> <p>Over the past few months you have been talking about budget cuts and layoffs. As a parent, I'd like to address why teachers should not be a part of this discussion.</p> <p>First, teachers are the life-line for our students during this COVID season of highs and lows. They are our first responders. They are our eyes and ears on the ground with our children since we are not able to be on campus. Parents are relying on our teachers to love and care for our children during a global pandemic as well as address learning loss!</p> <p>Second, attendance and enrollment are not reliable during a global pandemic and shouldn't be the primary indicator of budget allocations at this time. Parents who pulled children from public school to private school are eager to come back to public school IF they see that our schools are ready and thriving. Laying off teachers sends a terrible message to parents who are on the fence about enrolling their children back into the public school system. Additionally, many families, such as my own , who are fully vaccinated, still contracted COVID. We have missed more school days than we ever anticipated. Our absent days are not dictated by our lifestyle or lack of parenting. Factors outside of our control (COVID) struck due to this global pandemic. I am one of thousands of families who have or are experiencing the same things and this must be taken into consideration. Attendance is not a good measurement to use to allocate funds or budget cuts at this time. It is not equitable to use metric systems in a global pandemic that was made in a pre-pandemic world.</p> <p>Third, I know for a fact that you have the budget to keep all staff and teachers as-is for the upcoming school year. You do not need to cut health benefits to teachers. You do not need to lay off teachers. You do not need to combine grades at campuses. If anything, you need to hire the vacancies in our schools! Not only that, you need to speed up the process of hiring the vacancies in Fourth, let's talk about humanity for a second. Facts and figures aside, our teachers are providing consistency to students and families who have gone through a traumatic two years. Families have had family members die. Families have had abnormal interpersonal conflicts. Families are dealing with money stressors. Cutting funding to schools and removing teachers is another layer of trauma that is preventable and delay-able. The kindest and most loving thing to do at this time is to keep our teachers, keep our funding that is already budgeted, keep teacher benefits, and quickly hire staffing positions that are lacking.</p> <p>Fourth, let's talk about humanity for a second. Facts and figures aside, our teachers are providing consistency to students and families who have gone through a traumatic two years. Families have had family members die. Families have had abnormal interpersonal conflicts. Families are dealing with money stressors. Cutting funding to schools and removing teachers is another layer of trauma that is preventable and delay-able. The kindest and most loving thing to do at this time is to keep our teachers, keep our funding that is already budgeted, keep teacher benefits, and</p>



quickI am a parent at Crocker Riverside but also volunteer at our beloved sister school, Leataata Floyd. Although these two schools seem like opposites to each other, there are similarities that I'm confident parallel the other schools in our district. 1. The teachers love and advocate for their students in a season of learning loss; 2. The schools provide SEL to families which is crucial at this point in global history and 3. Removing consistent adults in the lives of children's lives has shown to negatively impact the students and school staff.

Thank you for all the care you are putting into these decisions. My request is to let things ride out for a while to allow families to find a new type of normal in our district. Attendance and enrollment will rise as the world continues to settle down and COVID becomes another chapter in our history books. Respectfully, Mariah Cook

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email mariah.cook@gmail.com

Tel: (916)949-4367

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2022 3:10:39 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**February 17, 2022 Public Comments**

Name:	Angel Ball
Comment:	<p>I support the Community Demands of SCUSD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Thorough investigation and prosecution of hate crimes</li><li>2. More support at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School specifically for African American students and other students of color</li><li>3. Zero tolerance policy on all racist acts and hate crimes</li><li>4. More culturally relevant curriculum and trainings for all teachers, parents and students</li><li>5. Recognize the accomplishments of African Americans during Black History Month. Integrate African Americans' rich history and contributions to America in the mainstream curriculum.</li></ol>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email: gacball@sbcglobal.net

Tel: 9163967383

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2022 4:06:00 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**February 17, 2022 Public Comments**

Name:	Dan Flores
Comment:	The youth of tomorrow doesn't need to experience what we have experienced. As a parent, we want our children to do better, experience better, and become better. What, as a community are we doing to prevent further actions such as what occurred at Abe Lincoln Elementary if we are reliant on our community leaders? The "don't take action" approach needs to stop as these horrific and sad activities' are still present in today's society. What's to come next...

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email dflow328@yahoo.com

Tel: 19163696169

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2022 5:00:45 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**February 17, 2022 Public Comments**

Name:	Janine Anderson
Comment:	<p>Requesting the following of SCUSD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Thorough investigation and prosecution of hate crimes</li><li>2. More support at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School specifically for African American students and other students of color</li><li>3. Zero tolerance policy on all racist acts and hate crimes</li><li>4. More culturally relevant curriculum and trainings for all teachers, parents and students</li><li>5. Recognize the accomplishments of African Americans during Black History Month. Integrate African Americans' rich history and contributions to America in the mainstream curriculum.</li></ol>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email: jaynign@aol.com

Tel: 9165313788

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2022 5:47:07 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**February 17, 2022 Public Comments**

Name:	Nick Buchen
Comment:	I'd like to address the recent racist incident at Abe Lincoln Elementary. I am saddened, disgusted, angered, and ashamed this has happened in my community. In response, I ask for a thorough investigation of hate crimes and prosecution of those found to be involved, as well as implementation of a zero-tolerance policy on all racist acts and hate crimes. Thank you.

Speaking as: Community Member  
Email nbuchen1@gmail.com  
Tel: 916-425-0622  
Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2022 5:24:12 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**February 17, 2022 Public Comments**

Name:	Autumn Eberhardt
Comment:	<p>I would like to say that the racist vandalism at the Abraham Lincoln elementary school is not something the district should take lightly. This is an elementary school for goodness sake. Our youngest students deserve a safe place. They also deserve to hear an explanation about what has happened in a way they can understand. An explanation on what is being done about it and steps to make sure it won't happen again. This should not be a passive uncomfortable discussion but in a truthful genuine way to express to students that society needs to come together when something like this happens. To show that the community at large does not support acts of hate. I also support the requests from the local activists of our community. 1. Thorough investigation and prosecution of hate crimes 2. More support at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School specifically for African American students and other students of color 3. Zero tolerance policy on all racist acts and hate crimes 4. More culturally relevant curriculum and trainings for all teachers, parents and students 5. Recognize the accomplishments of African Americans during Black History Month. Integrate African Americans' rich history and contributions to America in the mainstream curriculum. Thank you</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email fall8685@yahoo.com

Tel: (555) 555-5555

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2022 5:21:33 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**February 17, 2022 Public Comments**

Name:	Karl Haas
Comment:	<p>As a community member and witness to the racist events at Abraham Lincoln Elementary school, I am writing the board in support of the listed community demands. Thank you.</p> <p>Our Community Demands of SCUSD:</p> <p>1. Thorough investigation and prosecution of hate crimes 2. More support at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School specifically for African American students and other students of color 3. Zero tolerance policy on all racist acts and hate crimes 4. More culturally relevant curriculum and trainings for all teachers, parents and students 5. Recognize the accomplishments of African Americans during Black History Month. Integrate African Americans' rich history and contributions to America in the mainstream curriculum.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email haasenffer@yahoo.com

Tel: 2107817544

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2022 5:20:54 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**February 17, 2022 Public Comments**

Name:	Nicole Mullikin
Comment:	This is not the time for layoffs. We cannot afford to lose qualified staff and dedicated teachers and support staff.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian  
Email nvalentine.esq@gmail.com  
Tel: 9165950330  
Date/time Stamp: 2/24/2022 8:24:23 PM