

Sacramento City Unified School District  
Board of Education Meeting

March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Leonard Finch
Comment:	<p>Dear SCUSD Board,</p> <p>As a parent of two 8-year old twins that attend the Capitol Campus of the California Montessori Project, I have watched the school respond to the individual needs of my daughter and son that resulted from a difficulty making friends, building confidence for my son who has been identified as having a processing disorder, and this global pandemic and economic crisis. Since my daughter has a dedication to her art, the school developed a plan to create a “buddy bench” that our daughter was in charge of painting so that other students could meet there if they don’t have anyone to play with at recess to match up with each other. They also responded to both of my kids with a “Friendship Club;” the club met each week and ate lunch together. The school identified a few instances of bullying and addressed it quickly and decisively. The staff is caring and attentive to the students’ social-emotional needs while simultaneously encouraging them to learn at their own pace.</p> <p>The Board should approve another 5-year charter for CMP because it stands as a public option for those parents who want to continue the philosophy of Maria Montessori past Kindergarten. The matching of students into three grade-levels facilitates a mentorship that helps both the younger and older students. Combined with their PBIS program, students are encouraged to be kind and to resolve conflict through “Peace Talks,” which uses a mediation method of clear and healthy communication. The individualization of each student’s educational path really fits my children and allows them to pursue their own interests (such as art and paleontology) while still keeping up with the California Common Core State Standards in Math and English. My son recently went up almost an entire grade level in reading as a result of a collaborative effort of five instructors giving him 1:1, small group, and whole class educational experiences. If students fall behind, the Montessori methods facilitate a more efficient and systematic identification of needed interventions.</p> <p>As a twenty-four-year educator in both the Slovak Republic and the United States, I have had the pleasure of being the WASC Coordinator for over a decade, an English Department Chairperson for over twelve years, the Coordinator of AP Programs, AP Capstone, PBIS Team Leader, Pre-AP Co-Coordinator, and Fulbright Exchange teacher as well as the head of the Peer Mediation team at Natomas High School. In addition, I teach a full load of AP English and Research as well as general education English. My experiences have given me a good foundation for evaluating educational programs and I am highly impressed with their staff, administration, counseling, and special services. The California Montessori Project’s Capitol Campus has achieved the aims of enabling Charter Schools to experiment with various educational methodologies within a public school system in order to create an innovative and dynamic educational experience with trained, experienced, caring educators who believe in developing self-starters and critical thinkers. Thank you for your consideration and approval of the new 5-year charter</p>

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Speaking as: CMP Parent

Email

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Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 10:02:22 AM

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

**March 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Kimberly Foster
Comment:	<p>Dear SCUSD Board,</p> <p>I am the parent of a 2nd grader at CMP's Capitol campus. Prior to starting Kindergarten at the Capitol campus, my also son attended TK at CMP's Carmichael campus. Additionally, I have a High School Freshman who previously attended CMP Capitol campus from 1st grade through 8th grade.</p> <p>Our family is a strong supporter of the Montessori philosophy and we have appreciated the opportunity to pursue this less traditional form of public education for our children. Although my two boys could not be more different academically, we have found that CMP has given them the support needed to grow in their individual ways. Whether it was offering deeper and more complex extra-curricular opportunities or the extra support and SPED services that were needed.</p> <p>Of particular note, is the relative smoothness with which CMP was able to adapt and transition to the need for extended distant learning. All things considered, we feel the Administration, Staff and Teachers have worked hard to support the kids and provide us the tools needed to guide my child's education from home. It is certainly not an ideal situation, but I feel CMP has been extremely communicative and has helped to support the kids and parents as much as can be expected.</p> <p>We look forward to having our youngest son continue and thrive at CMP for several years to come.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and approval of a new 5-year charter.</p>

Speaking as: CMP Parent

Email

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Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 10:04:21 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
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March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Patrick and Kathleen Campbell
Comment:	<p>Dear Sacramento City Unified School District,</p> <p>I spent over 50 years in public and private education. I was fortunate to be a teacher, principal, associate superintendent and superintendent in the district just across the river (Washington Unified School District). I also had served as the Assistant Superintendent/Director of Special Education for the State of California.</p> <p>Needless to say, I had numerous opportunities to observe and participate first hand in programs throughout California. Some programs were great and some very poor.</p> <p>Currently we are raising our 5-year old granddaughter. Due to the luck of the draw, the California Montessori lottery, we were able to enroll her in the Capitol Campus program.</p> <p>I can't tell you how much we have enjoyed our experiences. The Montessori curriculum is by far the best curriculum I have experienced in over 50 years. Personally, if I were still in school administration, I would recommend the basic principles of the program to all students.</p> <p>However, as you know, the school is only as good as the principal and teachers. My granddaughter really enjoys her lunches with the principal. She is always there for us. The teacher is one of the best 10 teachers I have observed in 50 years of education. The district needs to clone her.</p> <p>We strongly desire to express our support for approving another 5 years for the charter. You should be very proud of this program and renewing the charter is a basic way of showing it.</p>

Speaking as: CMP Guardian

Email

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Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 10:06:15 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
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**March 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Robin Schriver
Comment:	<p>Dear SCUSD Board,</p> <p>Our daughter attended CMP-Capitol Campus from 3rd-8th grades.</p> <p>CMP was recommended to us and we were on the waiting list for a year before there was space for her. Due to social anxiety and an undiagnosed learning disability, she had struggled in our local public schools from K-2nd grades, and it was only when she went to CMP that it was discovered she had the learning disability and with extra services, she was finally able to thrive socially and academically. The teachers and staff were always extremely willing and able to help her live up to her full potential and include our family in the school's activities. She just recently graduated high school with a B+ average, and she will be attending art school this semester.</p> <p>CMP should absolutely receive approval for a new charter so they can continue their dedicated work to provide a variety of families looking for alternatives to the standard public schools in our area. While standard public schools are great for most children, no child learns or develops the same, and CMP is a wonderful alternative for those families looking for and/or in need of a more personalized education experience for their child.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration in approving the new five-year charter for CMP.</p>

Speaking as: CMP Alumni Parent

Email

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Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 10:08:23 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District

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**March 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Claire Brown
Comment:	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>My name is Claire Brown, and I'm in 6th grade at the California Montessori Project, Capitol Campus. I transferred here in 3rd grade after attending Phoebe Hurst. I liked my former school, but CMP has been a unique experience.</p> <p>The teachers here are really nice. I like that I get to work on my jobs with materials and with my friends. My favorite material is the peg board. I used the peg board to solve a square root problems at the end of last school year. I like this work because it's fun and challenges me. My teacher tells me that I know when my brain is growing because it hurts a little. My brain definitely hurts when doing square root. I like when we do number talks too.</p> <p>My greatest achievement at CMP was being elected as the 5th grade student representative. I helped to lead the school assemblies and met with Ms. Shannon to talk about the school. Before Covid-19, I had plans to start a breakfast club because I was hearing about my friends forgetting to eat breakfast.</p> <p>I feel like CMP has helped me to become prepared for middle school. I have been able to watch my sister in middle school and eavesdrop on some of her lessons while doing distance learning. I can't wait to start next school year.</p> <p>I'm also looking forward to going on field trips again. One of my favorites was going to Point Bonita last school year. We went on hikes and learned about science. The marine mammal center was my favorite.</p> <p>All of the teachers and staff are really friendly and help me. I know I can get help with my work or anything else from anyone.</p> <p>I recommend that the board approve our charter because our school rocks.</p>

Speaking as: CMP Student

Email

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Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 10:09:36 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
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**March 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Julian Rosen
Comment:	<p>Dear SCUSD,</p> <p>I have gone to CMP Capitol since Kindergarten and am now in 7th grade.</p> <p>I like the Middle School at CMP because there is a small community of students and the teachers offer a unique and immersive learning experience for me with the Montessori approach.</p> <p>I like how CMP has either 2 teachers or a teacher and a teacher's assistant in each class and that I have a teacher for more than one year because I get to know them and they get to know me, which gives them a chance to help me learn better.</p> <p>Thank you for taking your time today to read my letter and take my thoughts into consideration of the school for your approval of another five year charter for CMP Capitol.</p>

Speaking as:       CMP Student

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Date/time Stamp:   3/18/2021 10:11:00 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
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**March 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	David Ngirmidol
Comment:	<p>Dear SCUSD Board,</p> <p>I'm a 5th grader in the Coloma Class at California Montessori Project at Capitol campus.</p> <p>I love going to school at CMP because I get to use Montessori materials that help me learn and grow, especially in math. I enjoy the grace and courtesy lessons. It teaches me how to be a peaceful person. I also enjoy the mindfulness lessons which teaches me to do mindful breathing and having a growth mindset when I feel like my work is challenging.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your kind consideration in making it possible. I hope you'll consider allowing CMP to be a charter school for the next 5 years.</p>

Speaking as: CMP Student

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Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 10:12:15 AM



Sacramento City Unified School District  
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Name:	Cassandra Flowers
Comment:	<p>Dear SCUSD Board,</p> <p>I work for Placer County Office of Education as a Program Manager, and a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) regional trainer. I have been training and coaching the staff of California Montessori Project on PBIS since the year 2018.</p> <p>CMP has a great investment and concern for their students and families. CMP is comprised of some of the most organized staff and systems, and they are motivated to see their students succeed. CMP really considers the whole child, not just looking at behavior, or grades, they really strive to look at the entire well-being of their students. CMP has worked hard to instill the evidenced-based framework of PBIS into their schools, they have gotten all the way to the Tier 2 level. Their school teams meet monthly to look at data and discuss academic/behavior supports with fidelity and positive outcomes for their students. Students that attend CMP schools not only receive positive behavior supports, but support for their whole well-being.</p> <p>I want to thank the Board for their consideration and approval of 5 more years for California Montessori Project.</p>

Speaking as: CMP Supporter

Email

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Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 10:13:55 AM

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

**March 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Jocelyn Ochoa
Comment:	

Speaking as: Student

Email [ochoahernandez581@capitolcollegiate.org](mailto:ochoahernandez581@capitolcollegiate.org)

Tel: 916-549-1616

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 11:12:26 AM