

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Rosette Nguyen
School:	West Campus
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>As a West Campus parent and the PTO president, I've seen firsthand the incredible impact of our College and Career Counselor, Rita McNamara, especially on our lower-income students. She has worked closely with these and other students on review of their college applications; helping them navigate financial aid, and more. She has worked with the PTO fighting for income-eligible students to attend the weeklong college tour this and last year, always asking us and the school how we can support these income-eligible students. In working closely with Mrs. McNamara, the PTO has been able to fund \$6,000 each of the last two years, focusing on providing college tours for everyone and college tour scholarships. Mrs. McNamara has also devoted a lot of time to reviewing the PTO scholarships, once again, with a focus on needs-based students. She has truly ensured that financial barriers don't stand in the way of opportunity. Mrs. McNamara has truly changed lives, making higher education an achievable dream for so many in our community. I urge the district and board to consider keeping the four Career and College Counselor positions – if not for specific schools than possibly for the district, as their role has been pivotal to my student and the West Campus community.</p>

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Alice Liu
School:	West Campus
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>I am writing in support of the continuation and hopeful expansion of the program for College and Career Counselors. Rita McNamara was added to the West Campus staff and has provided expert college career guidance to the school, including the 45% of our school that is lower income. She has provided focused and extensive support along with coordinating college tours so that students can see their choices. She has been a invaluable resource for many students. This position should be added to all schools, as was it's initial intention, but for now I am writing to ask that it be considered to maintain the positions that exist and revisit expanding this support.</p>

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Dr. Kristen Tudor
School:	West Campus, Rosemont, Kennedy, and Burbank High Schools
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>I am writing to strongly urge you to retain the College and Career Counselor positions at West Campus, Rosemont, Kennedy, and Burbank High Schools. These positions provide vital support to students during one of the most critical transitions of their educational journey.</p> <p>I have a senior and a freshman at West Campus who have greatly benefited from Mrs. McNamara's expertise, which cannot be replaced by regular counselors who already manage caseloads of over 350 students each. I attribute her expertise, including her experience as a UC Admissions Counselor, with my son's admission to both UCs he applied to, all CSU he applied to, and all private universities he applied to. My freshman daughter is attending a southern California college tour organized by Mrs. McNamara over spring break – something my son did two years ago, and which provided valuable insights into various types of college campuses.</p> <p>I understand that the position was indented to be temporary but seeing the benefit to SCUSD students have benefited tremendously should be persuasive evidence of the importance of these counselors. College acceptance rates have improved, scholarship opportunities have increased, and students are better prepared for their futures.</p> <p>As a senior leader at a Cal State campus, I am acutely aware of the difficult decisions that you must make due to budget constraints. I urge you to find innovative ways to continue to provide college counselors and even look to expand the service to ALL high schools in the district. Eliminating these positions would create an immediate gap in services that cannot be filled by our already overburdened general counselors. The return on investment for these positions - measured in college acceptances, scholarship dollars, and prepared graduates - far outweighs their cost.</p> <p>Please prioritize permanent funding for these essential positions.</p>

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Ann Rochanayon
School:	West Campus
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>My understanding is that SCUSD is not going to continue providing a dedicated College and Career Counselor, Ms. McNamara, at West Campus. I have one child who graduated from West Campus last year and another child who is a junior. As a highly competitive, college prep high school, that is considered the best public high school in the region and ranked #17 in the state, it's critical to have a counselor that specializes in helping children with the overwhelming journey of applying for and paying for college. I know that we greatly value the knowledge and expertise that all of the counselors provide. However, the two regular counselors are very busy with their regular responsibilities, with lines often out the door with drop-in counseling. They would not be able to provide the level of specialized service and depth of resources around college apps that Ms. McNamara provides.</p> <p>We've benefited a great deal from Ms. McNamara's expertise. The information and resources that Ms. McNamara provided helped my oldest son get into UC San Diego, as well as other highly competitive colleges. My oldest son has attended college field trips that she's organized. My youngest will be attending the Spring Break field trip coming up next month to visit 11 different colleges in Southern California. We've been to college nights, attended countless webinars, and also appreciate the regular newsletters of internship and scholarship opportunities available.</p> <p>A dedicated college and career counselor is essential for the long-term success of West Campus and all the children it serves.</p> <p>Sincerely, Ann Rochanayon</p>

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Brian Lair
School:	West Campus
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>My name is Brian Laird, and I have been teaching at West Campus HS for twenty-five years. West Campus is known for its fantastically caring students, academic rigor, community service, and college going atmosphere. Students who attend West Campus know that one of our major goals is to get them into the college of their choice. Now, however, Mrs. Rita McNamara, our College and Career Support Counselor, may be let go from West Campus and be reassigned to another school. Since coming to West Campus, Mrs. McNamara has greatly helped move our counseling department to another plateau. Before Mrs. McNamara arrived at West Campus, we only had two counselors who were in charge of assisting over 850 students. These student counselors had to do everything from scheduling, emotional counseling, writing letters of recommendation, and offering guidance on applying to colleges, among so many other responsibilities.</p> <p>With Mrs. McNamara, she is the expert on all things having to do with preparing for college. She's created college fairs, college tours, helping with FAFSA, booking college reps to come speak to students, and in general her room has become a clearing house of sorts for the information our West Campus students seriously look for as they prepare to go to college or career. I can honestly say that Mrs. McNamara has added a boost for why our school is an attractive place for college bound students to attend. I'm asking the board of education and the district generally, to seriously rethink the plan to layoff Mrs. McNamara and/or to remove the position altogether. Without her, all of this responsibility falls back on the shoulders of our other two counselors who will be underwater with their current responsibilities. Everyone here at West Campus will be affected by the cutting of her position. She has become not extra staff that is a luxury, but has become a necessity. Student, parents, and staff rely on her expertise, and it will become much more difficult to support students without the skills of Mrs. McNamara.</p>

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Nina Thorton
School:	West Campus
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a senior at West Campus High School and Ms.McNamara has been an incredible help to me with applying to colleges and discussing career options. At a school like West Campus, nearly all students want to pursue higher education and Ms McNamara does an amazing job at helping us through the application processes. I met with Ms McNamara three times this school year to read and give me feedback on my PIQs. With her experience, she explained what schools are looking for in a student's PIQs and extracurricular activities. Although Ms. Anderson was helpful to me in the college application process, Ms. McNamara has the specific experience and guidance that students need. More than just reviewing college applications, Ms McNamara also provides us with scholarships and internships to help us succeed in the future. Please consider the effect the possible termination of Ms McNamara will have on future students.</p> <p>Thank you, Nina Thornton (12th grade student at WCHS)</p> <p>This is a student email account managed by scusd.edu. The contents of this email are governed by the laws of the State of California and the board policies of the Sacramento City Unified school district.</p>

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Julia Lopez
School:	West Campus
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>I am a current junior at West Campus who has received assistance from Mrs. McNamara, the college and career counselor on our campus, and would like to advocate for her to stay at our school. As a college prep school, West Campus attracts students who are determined to get into the colleges of their dreams and losing Mrs. McNamara would make that task exponentially more difficult. The opportunity newsletters that she sends out for juniors and seniors that detail summer programs, job opportunities, scholarships, and more are immensely helpful and introduced me to the COSMOS program. I have since applied to COSMOS with more one-on-one help from Mrs. McNamara and am awaiting information on my acceptance. She is almost always available for drop in questions after school and the college presentations that she organizes are very useful. I have been looking forward to participating in her financial aid and college application workshops next year and using her as a resource to greatly reduce stress as I apply to schools. Without her, I would have had way less exposure to all of the extracurricular activities and opportunities that are available to me. I know that Mrs. McNamara can continue to assist more students like me in the future and that our school will be much better off if she remains a part of it.</p>

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Christina Fischer
School:	West Campus
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>I am writing to request that the four college and career counselors for our district have their positions renewed indefinitely. If you need to make cuts, do not do it to positions that directly serve students. This is an important position that is a critical support for students making their next steps after high school. This budget cut is not worth the cost.</p>

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Marit MacArthur
School:	West Campus
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Rita McNamara is an extraordinary asset to West Campus High School, which has a high proportion of low-income students and is majority minority enrollment. Its college placement record in recent years is in large part due to Rita's support. My daughter is only a freshman but she is going on the spring break college tour trip in Southern California because it will likely end if Rita departs, and it's far more affordable than anything I could manage on my own.</p> <p>Please consider retaining her for the sake of the West Campus students, who really benefit so dramatically from her support.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Marit MacArthur Mother of a 9th grader at WC</p>

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Caren Roddy
School:	West Campus
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>SCUSD Board Members:</p> <p>I am the parent of a West Campus senior who would not be on his current college trajectory if not for the efforts of Rita McNamara, including a college tour that she dedicates her Spring Break to lead.</p> <p>In addition to this trip, Ms. McNamara organizes and leads weekly webinars by zoom throughout the year. Each session has a very specific and informative topic to help students and parents focus their efforts and expand their understanding of the complex college application process. The information shared in these webinars benefits everyone at the school.</p> <p>Ms. McNamara has been consistently proactive, responsive, knowledgeable, and inclusive in the time we have had the good fortune of working with her at West Campus. She goes above and beyond in the time and effort she commits to the school. This is not merely a job for her; it's truly her passion and purpose to help each and every student. The knowledge network that she has worked so hard to build will be lost if her position is eliminated. Expecting already overburdened school counselors to absorb this workload and be effective is completely illogical. Prioritizing the college counselor position is essential, and will be even more critical than ever in the context of the current Federal changes that are happening.</p> <p>With a Freshman daughter also at West Campus this year, I am devastated to learn that Ms. McNamara's position, along with others throughout the District, may be eliminated. "The last impression is the lasting impression." If we are not setting our students up to finish strong with a clear path forward as we launch them into the world, then what is the point.</p> <p>Respectfully, Caren Roddy West Campus parent of a Senior and a Freshman</p>

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Mary Jane Maguire-Fong
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Why is it that our district is not prepared to serve 4-year-olds in their neighborhood schools, even four-year-olds with identified disabilities? Transitional kindergartens were launched in 2012-13, and now in 2024, Sacramento City Unified School District appears be stuck in the past, refusing to acknowledge what science clearly shows, that it is in the earliest years that children are biologically primed for learning and when we can make the most difference with respect to how well they do in school and in life. It is shameful that the district policy is that parents of 4-year-olds must enter a lottery in hopes of capturing a spot in their child's neighborhood school. A family's right to participate in their neighborhood school should be a top priority. Why? Because family engagement in neighborhood schools is one of our most powerful modes of civic engagement, and we sorely need that in these times. Please do more to preserve a family's right to send their 4-year-old to the neighborhood public school.</p>

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Nakia Rogers
School:	Phoebe Hearst
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>My name is Nakia Rogers. I am a mother of two boys ages 8 and 4 years old. My 8 year old Adam Rogers is a student at Phoebe Hearst Elementary School and has been since kindergarten. My younger child Kayden Rogers took the readiness exam in February at the school district office. I received notification that he did meet the requirements to be added to the lottery. I then advocated for his test results as well as my concern for the conditions the test was given under. Kayden's test results do not at all reflect his knowledge in any of the categories given. Upon arriving at the testing location at the school district office. We waited in a packed waiting room almost an hour past our scheduled appointment. He was then taken to a back room with someone he did not know and given an exam on a tablet in which we did not prepare for tablet testing. He has been prepping for this test for 4 months and all verbally and on paper. I noticed he completed his exam very quickly, about 10 minutes. The test should have taken at least 15 minutes from what I was told to prepare for that timeframe. I know that when my son is anxious and nervous he will rush through to completion to hurry and be done with whatever the task is. I, as his mother, know how to recognize this behavior. I was advised that the children were asked if they needed a break. I don't know if my son was and or if he would have known to ask for or take one. I have spoken to the principal of Phoebe Hearst Mr. Martin as well as the District Liaison Vallery Welsh in person and through email and have been gaslighted and brushed off. I just want my son retested and or put on the lottery waitlist. He knows his letters upper and lower case, can count to 30, his shapes and colors. He is also well spoken and very self aware. He also writes his own name without assistance. I do know that there are a lot of concerns with the testing in the Phoebe community and the waitlist has been paused per an email from April Shafro. Some children have experienced glitching during the test as well as retesting which was also given to some students at another location one being Phoebe Hearst. So I am concerned that my child was not afforded the same opportunity. He is very comfortable at Phoebe Hearst as he has gone to events and to pick up and drop off his older brother there almost his entire life. I am hoping that we can come to some sort of resolve on the matter. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Nakia Rogers</p>

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Monica Morong
School:	Phoebe Hearst
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Evaya was denied enrollment for 24/25 to be with her sister in 6th grade due to confusion on the new Schoolmint process, despite passing the Kinder assessment and being told she was in the lottery. Now enrollment is closed for 1st-5th grade in 25/26 so Evaya does not have a chance to attend Phoebe where all 3 of her sisters went. I am also a daily traffic duty volunteer for several years now. This has been very painful for our family especially seeing there was a spot open in the Kindergarten teacher's class who taught our 6th grader 7 years ago. This is the only year they would have been together.</p>

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
April 3, 2025
Written Public Comments

Name:	Marissa Collins
School:	Phoebe Hearst
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>We enrolled at Phoebe Hearst under the understanding that siblings would receive priority enrollment to keep families together. However, the current process does the exact opposite. Right now, there is no waitlist for siblings, and even when spots become available due to enrollment fallout, those seats remain empty rather than being offered to the very children who were separated by this process.</p> <p>I want to share my family’s personal experience to illustrate how this policy is failing families. I have twins who started kindergarten last year, and despite our best efforts, they were placed in separate schools. I was assured by both the district and the principal that my daughter had a strong chance of getting in for first grade, as siblings receive priority and there are always several spots that open up due to normal enrollment shifts. However, as I attempted to add her to Open Enrollment for the next school year, I was shocked to see that Phoebe Hearst was not even listed as an option.</p> <p>This process has not only been frustrating but also logistically challenging—managing multiple school drop-offs has placed an enormous strain on our family. And we are not alone. Many families are in the same position, struggling to keep their children together and maintain a sense of stability in their school communities.</p> <p>While we understand and respect the district’s new 22-student class size cap, we firmly believe that a family-first approach should still be a guiding principle. Families should not have to choose between pulling one child from a school where they are thriving or accepting the reality that their young children will attend different schools, creating emotional and logistical challenges for both parents and students.</p> <p>This is not just an issue affecting one or two families—this is a widespread problem that is negatively impacting multiple families within our community, and the number continues to grow. We are asking the district to implement a sibling waitlist, so when seats do become available, siblings have the opportunity to enroll rather than leaving those seats unfilled.</p> <p>This simple, reasonable adjustment would allow the district to uphold its class size policy while also supporting the families who have already invested in this school community.</p> <p>What we are asking is quite simple: implement a sibling waitlist. When seats become available, pull from the sibling waitlist to fill that seat. Keep families together.</p>

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Katie Heidorn
School:	Theodore Judah Elementary
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>President Singh, and members of the School Board.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment.</p> <p>As you are aware, we have several problems with the transitional kindergarten enrollment lottery, wait-list, and general access at several schools.</p> <p>While the district has attempted to ramp up TK enrollment to achieve “TK for All”, this year, it has failed.</p> <p>There are not enough TK slots at schools proportional to the number of kindergarten classes at those schools.</p> <p>There are exceedingly long waitlists at several schools and it is unreasonable and unacceptable to offer TK slots far away from a person's neighborhood.</p> <p>Some of the children on wait-lists are siblings of children at the school. Families should not be split up.</p> <p>And, there are some elementary schools without any TK classes, which impacts other neighboring schools—in my area, these are Phoebe Hearst and Crocker/Riverside.</p> <p>When I emailed the enrollment center about these concerns, the response I received was that my school, Theodore Judah, is “popular”.</p> <p>I want to be clear: this is not about a school being “popular” and I am disappointed that that was the response.</p> <p>I have 2 older children at the school who open enrolled in years past and my third child is now wait-listed for TK. We have been a member of the school community for 3 years and will be for many years to come.</p> <p>Siblings of open enrolled children should be deemed to be in the geographic area for</p>

	<p>purposes of TK enrollment. This is especially important in areas where many students choose not to go to their neighborhood school and instead go to a school with open boundaries for kindergarten, like Phoebe Hearst. My child would not displace someone who will be at Judah long term. There are 3 other families at our school in the same situation whose children will be split up from their siblings. This was not an issue in years past, when my middle child enrolled in TK with no issues.</p> <p>There is a pattern here that shows that the district did not plan for all 4 year olds to be eligible for TK at the same time that class size ratios were reduced.</p> <p>What solutions are you considering? I formally ask you to set up a meeting and small working group with me, district staff, a school board member, school administrator, and a teacher so we can come together to creatively solve this problem for the coming school year and for the future.</p> <p>I am a problem solver; we can do this if we come together now, and we can be a model for other districts.</p> <p>I hope you'll reach out soon.</p>
--	---

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Katie Heidorn
School:	Theodore Judah Elementary
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>I'm writing to follow up on the emails I've sent to the district and to Board President Singh (my representative), as well as my comments at the board meeting two weeks ago.</p> <p>I, and many other parents with whom I'm coordinating and who also have children on TK wait-lists in East Sacramento, Land Park, and Midtown have not heard back from you or the district.</p> <p>To simplify, here are a few questions and some suggested solutions to the TK waitlist issue.</p> <p>Again, I hope to be contacted in the next few days by a board or district representative to discuss next steps--meeting with affected parents and solutions.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Katie Heidorn</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>1) What is the district going to do to solve the East Sac/Land Park/Midtown wait list problem before the start of the school year (other than offering families TK spots at schools 20-30 minutes away (40-60 mins round trip) from their homes)?</p> <p>2) Will the district please host a public town hall or meeting for TK parents so we can learn more about the district's response and proposed solutions?</p> <p>3) Will the district please send us or publish the existing number of TK classes and wait-lists by school for all elementary schools in the district (including schools that don't have TK)?</p>

	<p>Suggested solutions that parents would like to discuss at a meeting with board members and district staff:</p> <p>1) Add an extra TK class (or 2 as needed) to each elementary school in the East Sac/Land Park/Midtown area (these schools not only have their own TK needs, which are greater than in years past due to more 4 year olds being eligible and the 1:20 reduced class size ratios, they also have to absorb all the Phoebe Hearst and Crocker/Riverside TKers-- approx, 150-200 students, based on the kindergarten enrollment numbers at those schools). For example, Caleb Greenwood and David Lubin each need 2 additional classes; Theodore Judah, Washington, William Land, Leonardo Da Vinci, and Tahoe Elementary each need an additional class.</p> <p>2) Be creative with space--we understand that capacity is an issue, AND, we need to thoughtfully add TK classes at impacted schools so that all families are able to enroll. This might include shuffling classrooms around, utilizing portables, morning/afternoon sharing of rooms, and building new permanent structures--schools, principals, and teachers will all need to be open to doing this to make TK work for SCUSD's children.</p> <p>3) Ensure that before/after care is available to all TKers through ASES</p> <p>4) Consider consolidating classes at elementary schools with open TK slots. For example, if two or more nearby schools have 10 of 20 spots open, combine them at one location and send the extra teacher/class to a school with a wait-list.</p>
--	---

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Stephanie Zullo
School:	Sutterville
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	What are the immediate and long-term plans of the school district to ensure that they can comfortably enroll incoming TK students into their local schools to fulfill the promise of universal TK for SCUSD families?

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

April 3, 2025

Written Public Comments

Name:	Carmalita Maria Gutierrez Singh
School:	Sac High
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Hello my name is Carmalita m.gutierrez-singh I am the mother of Gabriel c.r. Gutierrez and son is currently having a lot of hardships with us being homeless and the lost of 3 of my younger sister his aunts he is i.e.p. and is falling way behind and is at risk at being a drop out! and is currently going Thur a court case so his social worker suggested I try putting him in miracle university and I have talked with and have put in request to enroll him at the miracle university but they have a waiting list of over 2,000 plus students and I really really need my son to get in to this school it's the only thing at this point that I truely do believe will be the only school that can help him in getting him to his goal of graduating he is at the mercy of the broad of education help with providing more funding to further assis miracle university in being able to help assistant my son and so many other students that are also suffering with school and are at risk of being drop out due to homelessness and other things that so many children in our county area suffering with in life that are preventing the from ever graduate .the school :miracle university has a 100% graduate success rate and I Carmalita gutierez-singh mother of Gabriel Gutierrez I am asking for more funding for this school to better help kids that are at risk in our community here in Sacramento county please help our kids thank you all for your time .</p>