

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Jennifer Wallace
Comment:	<p>I am a parent of students at LDV.</p> <p>My request is that the planned cuts are reevaluated. While I understand that painful cuts need to be made, LDV's middle school program should not be on the chopping block. Eliminating this amount of FTE would require the program to completely close, yet these students would still require the same number of teachers at other schools. It will NOT actually save any money for the district. The middle school at LDV pays for itself with incredibly low absentee rates compared to other schools. It is also SO incredibly detrimental to our children to make them change schools just after coming out of this terrible pandemic.</p> <p>This is a program where teachers are going above and beyond and teaching electives that they aren't even required to teach. Elimination of the program will simply not save money and will cause extreme harm.</p> <p>I urge you to work with your fellow trustees to come alongside the district to find better ways to save money. This moment in time requires us to be creative and lead in ways that feel new and different. I urge you to use your leadership for good and to make sure that the students of SCUSD are better protected from the financial crisis that faces us.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 7:22:04 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Patrick Neff
Comment:	<p>SCUSD Leadership,</p> <p>I am reaching out as the former music director at Rosemont High School and the President-Elect of California Music Educators Association, Capitol Section.</p> <p>I am deeply saddened that the board is once again considering cuts to music education in the district. SCUSD was once a flagship district for music in the state, but previous cuts, which my predecessor at Rosemont would describe as the "Draconian cuts of 1992," have already hindered the district's ability to provide comprehensive music education that students deserve. The district should instead be creating opportunities for music programs at the elementary level, and cuts to any current music offerings reflect leadership that does not value arts education.</p> <p>My peers who have reached out to you have received responses concerning healthcare costs for district employees. As a former employee of the district, I know this has always been a contentious topic. But it seems that at best the SCUSD music programs are being used as pawns in an effort to exert pressure elsewhere, and at worst are a very minor cost savings measure that will have negative consequences for generations of students.</p> <p>Music education in SCUSD is a bright spot that shines despite obstacles that have been present for decades. I am incredibly proud of the program I built at Rosemont, but moved on in part because I feared encountering this issue again. It is exhausting and unfair for everyone involved.</p> <p>Please eliminate all potential cuts to music from the Fiscal Recovery Plan and never consider this again. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 11:16:22 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

<p>Name:</p>	<p>These proposed cuts to arts, the GATE program, language programs and specifically the IB program are absolutely horrifying as a parent, a community member (former Sac Metro Arts Commission Board Member for arts education fundraising) and frankly as a local business person. We are sacrificing our children's education in all areas that are proven to help them excel in both math and language, to fund bloated expenses for our district at every level. These type of short sighted ideas will not only hurt our kids, but will quickly, in combination with covid shut downs, take families out of our district and into the private schools in our area that will provide a full education. The loss of students will only further drive the district into financial ruin, losing the very federal revenue it depends on to function. Why not think this problem out further, and look to the models that provide both increasing revenue and an outstanding education for children. Namely- the IB program. Cutting the funds for the IB coordinator position and eliminating the IB program from the district is so poorly considered. The Caleb Greenwood program has grown in academic performance and revenue through increased enrollment, to be a an outstanding model for the entire district to consider. Children are learning better, wait lists are in place for every grade, community home values are increased and it seems to this IB parent who open enrolled to join this outstanding program, to be the proverbial "win win." Cutting deep into the IB, GATE and arts programs will only send more people out of the district and further plummet the education of Sac City kids. These items are always the low hanging fruit in budget crisis, and always the worst and most damaging places to take away funding. Please do not make this grave error, and instead look to other methods of cost savings from staff reduction, potential pay cuts, benefit restructuring, etc. A full plan needs consideration here before knee jerk cuts that have lasting effects on our kids, our district, and our entire community are chosen. Thank you, Ingrid Foster Foster</p>
<p>Comment:</p>	<p>These proposed cuts to arts, the GATE program, language programs and specifically the IB program are absolutely horrifying as a parent, a community member (former Sac Metro Arts Commission Board Member for arts education fundraising) and frankly as a local business person.</p> <p>We are sacrificing our children's education in all areas that are proven to help them excel in both math and language, to fund bloated expenses for our district at every level. These type of short sighted ideas will not only hurt our kids, but will quickly, in combination with covid shut downs, take families out of our district and into the private schools in our area that will provide a full education. The loss of students will only further drive the district into financial ruin, losing the very federal revenue it depends on to function.</p> <p>Why not think this problem out further, and look to the models that provide both increasing revenue and an outstanding education for children. Namely- the IB program.</p>

Cutting the funds for the IB coordinator position and eliminating the IB program from the district is so poorly considered. The Caleb Greenwood program has grown in academic performance and revenue through increased enrollment, to be an outstanding model for the entire district to consider. Children are learning better, wait lists are in place for every grade, community home values are increased and it seems to this IB parent who open enrolled to join this outstanding program, to be the proverbial “win win.”

Cutting deep into the IB, GATE and arts programs will only send more people out of the district and further plummet the education of Sac City kids. These items are always the low hanging fruit in budget crisis, and always the worst and most damaging places to take away funding.

Please do not make this grave error, and instead look to other methods of cost savings from staff reduction, potential pay cuts, benefit restructuring, etc. A full plan needs consideration here before knee jerk cuts that have lasting effects on our kids, our district, and our entire community are chosen.

Thank you,

Ingrid Foster

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 12:40:25 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Kristen Tudor
Comment:	<p>I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to the recommended reductions of certificated staff at school sites with specialty programs, including Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood. Because these cuts would eliminate the IB Coordinator position, these reductions would mean the elimination of the IB programs at these schools. As you likely know, both campuses have had significant enrollment increases and improvements in test scores since becoming IB certified schools. These programs draw families into our district and keep families in our district, and as such, the pay for themselves.</p> <p>I am a strong proponent of public schools - my 5th grader and 8th grader have attended SCUSD schools since kindergarten, but without these programs, we will likely leave the district. My 8th grader plans to continue at Kit for high school, and if that is no longer an option I'll be forced to do what many in my neighborhood have been doing for years - request an inter-district transfer or send him to a private school.</p> <p>The communities of River Park and East Sacramento have had terrible high school choices for years. For example, the "home" high school for River Park is Rosemont - a 30 minute drive each direction! Now, thanks to the new programming at Kit, we finally have a great option for high school - we owe it to our children to preserve this program. I urge you to protect this growing, promising, program.</p> <p>As an educator with a deep understanding of public policy, I know that our district must make tough decisions about where to cut, but the elimination of these specialty programs will do more harm than good for our struggling district. I urge you to preserve these IB programs.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

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Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 2:10:43 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Elizabeth Campbell
Comment:	<p>I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the recommended reductions of certificated staff at school sites with specialty programs, including Kit Carson. Because these cuts would eliminate the IB Coordinator position at Kit Carson, this reduction would mean the elimination of the IB programs at this school, and likely result in a total elimination of the high school program. The IB high school program has resulted in a significant enrollment increase and improvements in test scores since KCIA became IB certified. The program draws and keeps families in our district and thus effectively pays for itself.</p> <p>If the IB program at KCIA is eliminated, we will almost certainly remove our 8th grader from the district. We have already removed our 4th grader due to SCUSD's inability to meet his needs as a struggling reader.</p> <p>This district has long suffered from an inability to get beyond casting blame and move forward with vision and common sense. Please do the right thing, preserve these programs that serve mostly low-income students, and avoid short-sighted budget cuts that will result in long-term losses for students and the district as a whole.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 2:30:32 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Amy Woodhull
Comment:	As a parent and community member, I strongly urge the board to retain the IB programs and services. This program is an excellent opportunity for your children and without the program many many families will move their children outside of the district. It's my hope the suggested removal of the IB coordinator was done without knowledge the profound impact it would have on the program. I am confident the board will find other avenues to cut cost while maintaining necessary programs for our youth. Both of my boys are thriving in the IB program. With today's climate, the IB learning module has an even bigger impact on youth education with a whole world attitude. Please vote AGAINST the removal of this program

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 2:53:33 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Brittany Barham-Guerrero
Comment:	Cutting successful student programs to meet budget needs is wrong. We must invest in our youth, not cut programs like the IB program at Kit Carson. It is successful and highly sought-after. Especially given what kids are currently dealing with, this would be a slap in the face.

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 4:33:27 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Kevin Borrelli
Comment:	<p>I am writing to voice my concern and strong opposition to the recommended cuts of the IB Coordinator position for Caleb Greenwood and Kit Carson schools. Without the position, the IB program would be eliminated. These programs are so important to not only our students, but the families. Families have voiced the desire of specialty programs and programs that advance and challenge their children. IB does that. These programs keep people in our district. We have lost families to other districts/charters as they search for the right program and fit for their child. Help us to prevent more families from leaving. The IB program has revived Kit Carson. It has brought a high school into the community. I personally know families that considered different programs for their child but stayed in our district because of IB and the option of a small high school. These schools had to work hard for their accreditation and have done an amazing job. Not many districts can boast of a k-12 IB program. Please rethink your decision to eliminate the IB Coordinator position. The program and our district depend on it.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 4:46:21 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Josh Clark
Comment:	<p>I am a parent of a student at Caleb Greenwood Elementary, and hope to enroll my second child in kindergarten at Caleb in the fall. I write to oppose the Fiscal Recovery Plan, and to call on the district to pursue negotiated savings to address its structural deficit.</p> <p>My children and their classmates would be negatively impacted by the FRP, as it would eliminate the International Baccalaureate (IB) Coordinator position, and with it, the IB program at Caleb Greenwood. It is no exaggeration to say that we chose to enroll our kids at Caleb Greenwood because of the IB program. I know from having spoken with other parents that we're not alone on this. I'd say that our decision to enroll at Caleb due to the IB program is closer to the rule than the exception.</p> <p>There is evidence, in fact, that it would be financially counterproductive to cut the IB program at Caleb Greenwood. The increased enrollment pattern at the school tells us that the IB program has not only paid for itself, but subsidizes other schools in the district. That is, Caleb Greenwood is a revenue generating school for the district because of its IB program.</p> <p>The IB program at Caleb Greenwood is self-sustaining; cutting it would be self-defeating.</p> <p>That's the narrow self-interest pitch – my self-interest, and that of the district.</p>

On a broader level, I see the Fiscal Recovery Plan as deeply inequitable, and the wrong place to start. I understand that there is a structural deficit in the district, and that a state takeover would be worse than the FRP.

But so-called non-negotiables cannot be all that is on the table.

It may be that negotiated savings would not be enough to address the district's structural problems. But they are absolutely the right place to start, from a mission SCUSD standpoint, and from an equity and social justice standpoint. Services to students across the district – likely above all at schools where parents are working multiple jobs and do not have the time to write letters like this one – have already been stripped of nearly every non-essential.

It is undoubtedly easier to cut non-negotiables, but it is worse for the future of the district and the city of Sacramento.

The city needs a public conversation and debate – out in the open, and no matter how heated – about how to fix the structural deficit. That will be created by forcing negotiation partners to the table, and bringing to public light the full range of potential cost reductions. Whether those reside in changes to healthcare plans, or to the pay grades for the district's highest administrators is a conversation that we need to be having -- in public view.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 4:50:34 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Michael Richardson
Comment:	It is absolutely absurd to consider reducing staff at Kit Carson, especially given the possibility of losing IB status. We were very specifically sold on Kit Carson as an IB school and the benefits of such an education. My daughter is currently in the 11th grade and we fully expect her to be able to get an IB diploma. We were told that such a diploma would likely make it easier to get accepted at colleges and that in some cases my child would be given college credit, thus saving potentially thousands of dollars. To strip that away at this point because this district has been unable to get its affairs in order financially is patently unfair. At a minimum I fully expect the district to maintain the program so that every current student at Kit Carson will receive an IB diploma.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 4:52:56 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

<p>Name:</p>	<p>I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to the recommended reductions of certificated staff at school sites with specialty programs, including Kit Carson. Because these cuts would eliminate the IB Coordinator position, these reductions would mean the elimination of the IB programs at this school. As you likely know, this campus has had significant enrollment increases and improvements in test scores since becoming IB certified school. These programs draw families into our district and keep families in our district, and as such, the pay for themselves. I am a strong proponent of public schools - my 6th grader and 8th and 9th graders have attended SCUSD schools since kindergarten, but without these programs, we will likely leave the district. My 8th grader plans to continue at Kit for high school, my 9th grader has been at this school for 3 years already and my 6th grader is to start there next year and if that is no longer an option I'll be forced to do what many in my neighborhood have been doing for years - request an inter-district transfer or send him to a private school. The community of East Sacramento has had terrible high school choices for years. For example, the "home" high school for East Sacramento (where we live) is Hiram Johnson- that's unacceptable. Now, thanks to the new programming at Kit, we finally have a great option for high school - we owe it to our children to preserve this program. I urge you to protect this growing, promising, program. Thank you for your time and let's try and get this right!! Thurston</p>
<p>Comment:</p>	<p>I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to the recommended reductions of certificated staff at school sites with specialty programs, including Kit Carson. Because these cuts would eliminate the IB Coordinator position, these reductions would mean the elimination of the IB programs at this school. As you likely know, this campus has had significant enrollment increases and improvements in test scores since becoming IB certified school. These programs draw families into our district and keep families in our district, and as such, the pay for themselves.</p> <p>I am a strong proponent of public schools - my 6th grader and 8th and 9th graders have attended SCUSD schools since kindergarten, but without these programs, we will likely leave the district. My 8th grader plans to continue at Kit for high school, my 9th grader has been at this school for 3 years already and my 6th grader is to start there next year and if that is no longer an option I'll be forced to do what many in my neighborhood have been doing for years - request an inter-district transfer or send him to a private school.</p> <p>The community of East Sacramento has had terrible high school choices for years. For example, the "home" high school for East Sacramento (where we live) is Hiram Johnson- that's unacceptable. Now, thanks to the new programming at Kit, we finally have a great</p>

option for high school - we owe it to our children to preserve this program. I urge you to protect this growing, promising, program.

Thank you for your time and let's try and get this right!!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 5:06:31 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Angel White
Comment:	

Speaking as: Student
Email hitodesu.u@gmail.com
Tel: 916 226 0825
Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 6:27:54 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Terri Clark
Comment:	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>My name is Terri Clark and I am a parent of a seventh grade student at Leonardo da Vinci EK-8. My son Oscar has attended LDV since third grade. We chose the school because it is a K8 program. We feel that going Middle School in a smaller environment is developmentally appropriate for kids this age. It is especially beneficial to our son who is a bit behind his peers in maturity. We adopted him from Vietnam when he was 18 months old.</p> <p>If you remove 1.6 FTE from the middle school my son will not be able to complete eighth grade at LdV. The whole MS is run on four main academic teachers ,an art teacher and a PE teacher. If 1.6 FTE is removed they cannot go on. And in the end you will not save any money because our 155 MS students will have to be moved to other SCUSD Middle Schools. LdV is a long standing high quality program that runs on very little money.</p> <p>LdV is an incredible program that has massive parental support. Our parent group raises over \$100,000 a year to help pay for our specialized field trips and other programs. We raise enough money so that EVERY child gets to go on these trips. Last year my son's sixth grade class spent an incredible week in Yosemite National Park.</p> <p>It was a life-changing experience for most of those children. At LdV our students receive an incredibly rich education where they not only excel in academics but are enriched by the arts. My son participates in morning orchestra class. He loves playing cello.</p> <p>Please reconsider your proposal to remove 1.6 FTE from the LdV Middle School. Since our MS students would have to move to another MS you will not save any money. But instead bring an end to a incredibly successful 31 year old program. Thanks for your time. Terri</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 6:56:07 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Mary Kelly
Comment:	<p>My name is Mary Kelly and I am the parent of a 9th grade student at Kit Carson International Academy. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the recommended reductions of certificated staff at school sites with specialty programs, including Kit Carson. The recommended cuts would eliminate positions, such as the IB Coordinator, which would result in the elimination of the Kit Carson’s IB program. Kit Carson has had significant enrollment increases and improvements in test scores since becoming an IB certified school. The IB program draws families into our district and keeps families in our district, and as such, the program pays for itself.</p> <p>The communities of River Park and East Sacramento have long had no reasonable high school choices. Most neighbors request an inter-district transfer or send their students to private school. However, with the IB program at Kit Carson, we finally have a great alternative for our neighborhood high school, as well as the opportunity to be a school that draws students from other districts, as does the IB program at Mira Loma High School.</p> <p>The SCUSDs website touts the IB program as having a “hard-earned reputation for high standards of teaching and student achievement.” It continues, “IB has a proven track record of high academic success...IB is one of the fastest growing educational programs on the planet.” Finally, “research shows that students who graduate from IB programs are better prepared for college and careers and have the highest GPAs in four-year university freshmen classes.”</p> <p>As the Board is responsible for establishing the District’s long-term vision, it is incumbent on the members to make decisions that support specialty programs. The then Board was exercising its long-term vision when authorizing Caleb Greenwood and Kit Carson to pursue the IB World School authorization. At that time, the board recognized the benefit of SCUSD offering the prestigious academic program across an entire K-12 education track.</p> <p>The schools’ undertook years long processes of training teachers, raising curriculum to meet IB standards, as well as the construction process to convert the middle school into an IB high school. In 2016, Kit Carson became the first SCUSD school to offer the IB</p>

for middle school years, thereby realizing that Board's vision to offer the IB program for grades K-12.

I urge you to acknowledge the long-term vision that brought the IB programs to Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood; and to consider the hours, effort and costs incurred by the district to be able to offer this prestigious program. I urge you to protect this growing program, and by doing so, further what is set out in the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan: to "focus on proven strategies that directly impact our students' ability to access high quality instruction and receive the appropriate supports to help them become college and career ready." I urge you to preserve the funding that will allow IB programs at Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood to continue to grow and succeed.

Elimination of these specialty programs will do more harm than good for our struggling district. It is not the time to make cuts that will eliminate these programs; rather it is the time to support the programs in achieving the mission of the Strategic Plan. The IB program addresses the mission by being a proven strategy, by providing students access to high quality instruction, and by supporting students in becoming college and career ready.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 7:01:15 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Chris Thoma
Comment:	<p>My name is Chris Thoma and I am parent at Leonardo da Vinci. I am writing to express my concerns with reducing the middle school teaching staff. Please reconsider and not make these cuts. In looking at the impact statements, there are far too many programs/roles that may be eliminated at the detriment to students of SCUSD. I understand that we are in a dire situation financially AND I do not believe that these cuts are the right ones to be making.</p> <p>I strongly oppose the elimination of the middle school at LdV. The middle school faculty are caring, talented, and committed individuals. They are teachers that go beyond what's required of their contract to provide electives, after school programs, and amazing field trips. It also doesn't make sense for you to cut the middle school because, should our middle schoolers be displaced to another school, SCUSD will still need to provide that same number of teachers, resulting in no cost savings. All it would do is close down a program that is recognized and desired by parents districtwide for their children. My older child has already gone through LdV middle school, and is prepared beyond my expectations for high school, even in the midst of distance learning.</p> <p>I'd also like to bring to your attention that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The middle school at LdV pays for itself and then some. According to ADA data, from 2016-2019, LdV had the lowest rate of chronic absenteeism compared with other SCUSD middle schools. For example, in 2018-19, LDV's chronic absenteeism rate was 4.5% while rates at two nearby middle schools were 17.15% at Cal and 16.1% at Sam Brannan. It does not make sense to eliminate a program that is financially sound.2. There is an abundance of data that suggests that smaller middle schools are better for students than larger middle school environments.3. LdV could be a proof point for our district and it could support broader learning that would be better for our district over all.4. Middle school is a really hard time for kids. Keeping them in an environment they know and with people they know can be really stabilizing for some students.

LdV is a special community, one that is filled with faculty, parents and staff that show a keen interest in the individual student and the student body as a whole. Nowhere else will you find parents jumping at the opportunity to go on field trips, teachers providing extra help, and a staff that supports everyone so successfully.

I urge you to work with your fellow trustees to come alongside the district to find better ways to save money. This moment in time requires us to be creative and lead in ways that feel new and different. I urge you to use your leadership for good and to make sure that the students of SCUSD are better protected from the financial crisis that faces us.

Thank you for your attention in this matter,

Chris Thoma

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 9:37:32 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Ryan Johnson
Comment:	The Fiscal recovery plan proposes cutting 1.6 teachers at Leonardo da Vinci middle school. My daughters have both had an exceptional experience at LdV. Unfortunately, cutting these 1.6 teachers would result in the middle school having to close completely, losing a major part of the effectiveness of the K-8 program at LdV. I know that cuts overall have to made, but I want to bring to your attention that, in this case, these cuts to LdV will have an oversized negative impact to a program that has been excellent and fiscally sound for many many years. Please consider this in reviewing the proposal. Thank you.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 10:07:44 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Adrianna Alcala-Beshara, Esq.
Comment:	<p>Board Members,</p> <p>The consideration of elimination of programs such as GATE, AP, and pathways (hereinafter “Opportunity programs”) within the school district should not even be a consideration. In addition, the elimination of 1.6 positions at Leonardo DaVinci closes the middle school program based on bargained student-teacher staffing ratios and is morally and fiscally irresponsible. Pennywise and dollar foolish. MANY studies support greater emotional and academic success and ROI in K-8 schools, it’s why many metropolitan schools systems have adopted this model. Also consider as notice, a decision tonight regarding LDV also appears to run afoul of State law requirements. Moving on, there are schools within this district wherein your address dictates whether your child goes to a “good school” or not. Opportunity programs and schools like LDV, give our children, especially those of color a chance at a better education irrespective of socio-economic status. Meaning whether you can live in projects or million dollar homes of Pocket, etc., you are welcome. This is equity. Elimination of items aforementioned disenfranchise our children of opportunities that school districts such as Folsom and El Dorado Hills provide. Children receive different educations based on what opportunities are available –don’t take what little opportunities that these children have left. Stripping these opportunities is sophistry to your real budget issues. Children’s future prospects should not be dictated by political clout and the affluence of their parents. As state workers my household took almost a ten percent reduction of our earnings due to our State’s budget. I was not excited about it, but I understood our unions and state negotiators knew what needed to be done and had EVERYONE’s best interest in mind. It is your turn to do the right thing and focus on areas that are non-detrimental to our kids’ opportunities. 2018 is last time a FCMAT was completed. Another is clearly needed. Also, while I’m here, can I get an actual response to communications from my school board member Darrell Woo? Mr. Woo attempt three, I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you all.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 11:45:35 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Lori Merritt
Comment:	<p>My daughter started Kit Carson this year and my son is ninth grade, this is his third year there. We love Kit's IB program and appreciate how much the staff supports students.</p> <p>If Kit loses the funding necessary to support the IB program the district would be gutting a successful program. Kit became an IB program as the result of a grassroots community intervention for a struggling middle school. The IB program has taken Kit Carson from a struggling middle school with declining enrollment to a school where more students apply than they have space for.</p> <p>I can remember attending a high school information meeting and parents from private schools and Waldorf schools were worried about their children getting a space. I was grateful I didn't have to worry about my child's space since he'd been going there for middle school. Now I AM worried about where he will go to high school if Kit's IB program is ripped apart. The district stands to lose money as more high school families flee the district.</p> <p>It seems crazy and short sighted to me that district would shut down a successful program that is attracting families to a school. The fiscal plan money won't change much in the district, but it would have devastating effects for Kit Carson. Please don't destroy a program that is doing great things for students at Kit and keeping families in the district!</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/26/2021 5:50:51 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Stacey Sayre
Comment:	<p>Hello to the new board!</p> <p>I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to the recommended reductions of certificated staff at school sites with specialty programs, including Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood. Because these cuts would eliminate the IB Coordinator position, these reductions would mean the elimination of the IB programs at these schools. As you likely know, both campuses have had significant enrollment increases and improvements in test scores since becoming IB certified schools. These programs draw families into our district and keep families in our district, and in response , they pay for themselves.</p> <p>I am a strong proponent of public schools - my twins, now in 8th grade have attended SCUSD schools since kindergarten, but without these programs, we will likely leave the district. My 8th graders plans to continue at Kit for high school, and if that is no longer an option I'll be forced to do what many in my neighborhood have been doing for years - request an inter-district transfer or send him to a private school.</p> <p>The communities of River Park and East Sacramento have had terrible high school choices for years. For example, the "home" high school for River Park is Rosemont - a 30 minute drive each direction - that's unacceptable. Now, thanks to the new programming at Kit, we finally have a great option for high school - we owe it to our children to preserve this program. I urge you to protect this growing, promising, program.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/26/2021 8:33:18 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Dan Goulart
Comment:	<p>We have been fortunate enough to be members of the Leonardo DaVinci family for six years. As parents, it is a painstakingly difficult challenge to find an educational experience for your family that fits all of your many requirements: solid education, safe environment, engaged families and teachers, access to music and arts and a student body that is driven by a desire to learn and a desire to grow socially. We have found this at LDV. I am sure you have heard how LDV has been a standard for over 30 years. I am sure you have been presented with the fact that LDV has a waiting list at every grade level, EK-8. I imagine you have been told that LDV is fiscally sound and by cutting the Middle School Program, Sac City will not benefit in any way financially and will likely only succeed in taking away one of their solvent programs and forcing kids and teachers to crowd into programs that are not as fiscally sound or capable of maintaining their enrollment. You may even realize that by taking away 1.6 teachers from a Middle School that needs every single one to function as the high-quality, rigorous education experience that prepares out kids for high school in a manner that is unparalleled in this area, you will effectively force the Middle School to close and therefore force parents to choose between sending their kids to large schools where they may get swallowed up in an environment that is not suited for every child or to go with a private option in a time where our economy and people's jobs are already stressed, or to move outright to a school district that can accommodate a similar experience to LDV. I am guessing that you do not want people leaving. That is already a concern for Sac City and making across the board decisions like cutting the LDV Middle School and valued programs like music (which both of our kids have enjoyed and benefited from for years) will not save you from your real problem, providing better, more rounded education environments because, as I am sure you know, parents will seek out the best environments and by closing LDV Middle School, you are just taking away a great and desirable option that certainly makes my family consider a change in District when my youngest is ready for 7th grade. So, if you know all this, then what don't you know...perhaps, as it relates to this issues, not much. And if you know all of these things, I hope that you have the insight and temerity to look at each, proposed cut as a single case because that is your responsibility to the District, to avoid the mistake of losing a Middle School that is not a part of the problem. You have that responsibility to the parents of your District who sit on a wait list, as we did until 4th grade, to get into a school like LDV where one of our criteria was finding a smaller, K-8 program where our kids could grow with their friends and teachers alike until they were ready for high school. Mostly you owe it to the kids. It is cliché but that IS what this is really supposed to be about, education I mean. I strongly implore you to not take away this jewel. It has, can and will continue to be a part of the solution. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/26/2021 8:33:38 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Kara Synhorst
Comment:	<p>Members of the Board and Superintendent Aguilar; Forget the oversized reserve fund. Forget the errors of the past. Forget one-time funds and CARES act money (already, we recently learned, squandered on air filters that won't do the job and may poison our kids with formaldehyde).</p> <p>The 21-22 budget originally included an estimate of a COLA of zero. The actual COLA announced by the governor is 3.84%. That's a difference of 14.5 million dollars. How many times are we going to get more money and still be told it's not enough, and that we have to cut music, IB, preschool, social workers, counselors. Truly, who thinks it's a good idea to cut these things?</p> <p>The money is literally sitting right there to pay for these programs and people. I understand all your "one-time" "unrestricted" jargon, but here's what's happening: enough money exists to continue to serve the students of this district, and you just don't want to. You want to do what you've done for years -- convince the community that the teachers are greedy, threaten the programs that serve our children, and lay people off, then act totally surprised when you have the money to fill those positions a few months later, and instead can't hire anyone and the kids have to have rotating long-term subs for months.</p> <p>You've asked us to think of our household budgets. Fine, I am. If my kids are hungry today, but I'm worried that two years down the line, I won't have the money for milk, I don't let them starve today. I give them what they need and try to solve the problems in the long run. That's what you should do, too. Stop threatening the community. You're like an old-time movie villain: "Give back the health care or the IB program gets it." You would take away Luther Burbank students' IB exam registration fees because maybe someday in the future you'd have to take a loan if you can't sort out a couple million in savings over the next year or so. You'd compromise their futures and their college credits -- students who are largely first-generation college students eligible for free lunch -- and for what? For a bargaining chip. Serve the students. Serve the community. Stop playing games.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/26/2021 8:50:49 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Angela Asch
Comment:	No cuts to VAPA/arts programs! These cuts do more harm than good both financially and to the social and emotional health of our children. Arts programs are desperately needed, especially now during this tumultuous time.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/26/2021 8:52:56 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Crystal Richardson
Comment:	<p>As parents of two Caleb Greenwood Elementary students and residents of River Park, it has been brought to our attention that Caleb Greenwood Elementary is at risk of losing its status as an International Baccalaureate School should the school board approve the Fiscal Recovery Plan as is and cut a single position at our school (required IB Coordinator).</p> <p>Caleb Greenwood Elementary School provides an important, top-notch education curriculum to our students due in-part to the IB program at the school. Research shows that students in the IB Primary Years Program and Middle Years Program performed better than non-IB students in global International Schools' Assessment study that ran from 2009-2011. As a former School Site Council member, it has been heart-warming to watch our school's test scores improve and enrollment grow year over year. The IB program has driven growth in school enrollment from 401 students (2013/14) to 559 students (2019/20). Enrollment growth has provided an annual revenue increase of nearly \$1.2 million each year – more than paying for our IB Coordinator position (\$110,000 annually).</p> <p>I understand the tough position you are in and the dire situation the current Sacramento City Unified School District budget is in. However, I respectfully want you to know that community members and parents like me do not support the decision to cut staffing for specialty programs that REQUIRE minimal additional staff for certification. It will have compounding negative impacts on the school's students and staff, and the community as a whole. Many parents like us will have to decide whether or not to keep our kids in the school district and enrollment will plummet. I'm asking you to remove this portion of the FRP. Please allow Caleb Greenwood Elementary (and other specialty programs) to keep our IB Coordinator and status as an IB School.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/26/2021 9:15:36 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Catherine Warmerdam
Comment:	<p>Thank you for holding a special meeting focused on the Fiscal Recovery Plan. A public discussion detailing how the district will fix its structural deficit and avoid receivership is long overdue.</p> <p>The Fiscal Recovery document is a first step in that discussion, however it falls far short of serving as a roadmap toward solvency. The formula-driven cuts proposed in this document seem to have been made without any consideration of real-life context or consequences. The proposal up for discussion tonight is a list of cuts, but it is not a plan. An actual plan looks at the big picture. An actual plan weighs the impacts on student outcomes. An actual plan treats schools and programs as parts of an integrated system, not silos.</p> <p>Where are the creative ideas for integrating or consolidating programs? Where is the analysis on the impacts that shuttering middle school programs at K-8 sites will have on enrollment and student outcomes? Where is the evidence that disrupting special education programs actually saves money? The document before you offers none of that.</p> <p>Superintendent Aguilar and board members, I challenge you to answer this question for families tonight: When will the public see a comprehensive, integrated plan that looks holistically at the budget cuts that will be necessary to avoid receivership?</p> <p>We are running out of time to implement the best available solutions—the solutions that will do the least harm to students. The longer we wait, the fewer creative options we have available to us. We are growing impatient for your leadership. Show us a real plan. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/26/2021 9:43:04 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Rebekah Scoville
Comment:	<p>I understand that the budget deficit is a real and grave problem and that these next layer of cuts are going to be painful as the budget is already bare bones. But I strongly believe that cutting 1.6 teachers from the LDV middle school program is the wrong decision. This cut of 1.6 teachers will eliminate the middle school program, which is one of the highest scoring middle schools in the district.</p> <p>I have a first and third grader at LDV this year and through the pains and struggles of distance learning, it is the TEACHERS (Mrs. Goodman and Mrs. Moua) that are making learning at home possible and actually FUN for my boys. My first grader learned how to read this year in distance learning!! What a huge accomplishment is that!! I share this story of learning as I know that the high quality of education that my children are getting now will continue through their middle school education at LDV.</p> <p>We chose LDV three years ago because of the rigorous academics, the fun field trips, parent participation and thematic learning. The knowledge that my kids could reap the rewards of this well established educational experience not only through elementary school, but through middle school as well sold us on the program. We were excited to get accepted into the program and honestly, our LDV experience has been even more magical and rewarding than we expected. We have been blown away by each teacher we have had, the engaged and hard working administration and the parents eager and willing involvement. My children have thrived at LDV and the LDV middle school experience is a safe place for my children to continue their rigorous education.</p> <p>My husband and I were shocked to hear that this budget cut was even on the table. I know there are other areas, like employee health care costs, that can be cut but the education of our middle schoolers is not an area that should ever be cut. Please reconsider and save our middle school program for the future of my children and the many generations of LDV students to come after them.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/26/2021 10:19:15 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Dave O'Toole
Comment:	I am submitting comment related to the proposal to cut 1.6 positions from LdV's middle school. Without question, because of the size of LdV's middle school, that reduction will put an end to LdV as a K-8. Eliminating K-8s is counter to recommended middle school education programming throughout the U.S., and would have serious repercussions for middle school enrollment and children forced to attend large middle schools. I urge you to remove this proposal immediately and adopt targeted cuts, with full involvement and input from the Sacramento community. Thank you.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/26/2021 10:33:35 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Cindi Brosemer
Comment:	I am requesting that any action that would have a direct impact on students be used only as an absolute last resort. ALL other options should be thoroughly examined and exhausted before implementing cuts that negatively affect district students. Closing programs and forcing students to leave schools they already attend and are comfortable with will only drive more families to leave the district entirely. Our kids need stability and familiarity more than ever. Many have lost so much already. Don't take more.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/26/2021 10:33:47 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Brenda Mork
Comment:	<p>I am a parent to an 8th grade student at Kit Carson as well as a 5th grade student at Caleb Greenwood.</p> <p>I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to the recommended reductions of certificated staff at school sites with specialty programs, including Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood. Because these cuts would eliminate the IB Coordinator position, these reductions would mean the elimination of the IB programs at these schools. As you likely know, both campuses have had significant enrollment increases and improvements in test scores since becoming IB certified schools. These programs draw families into our district and keep families in our district, and as such, the pay for themselves.</p> <p>I am a strong proponent of public schools - my 5th grader and 8th grader have attended SCUSD schools since kindergarten, but without these programs, we will likely leave the district. My 8th grader has his heart set on continuing at Kit for high school. He has been an IB student since kindergarten (at Caleb Greenwood) and loves the program and all that it has to offer as he begins to think about college. If IB is no longer an option I'll be forced to do what many in my neighborhood have been doing for years - request an inter-district transfer or send him to a private school.</p> <p>The communities of River Park and East Sacramento have had terrible high school choices for years. For example, the "home" high school for River Park is Rosemont - a 30 minute drive each direction - that's unacceptable. Now, thanks to the new programming at Kit, we finally have a great option for high school - we owe it to our children to preserve this program. I urge you to protect this growing, promising, program.</p> <p>I know that our district must make tough decisions about where to cut, but the elimination of these specialty programs will do more harm than good for our struggling district. I urge you to preserve these IB programs.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/26/2021 10:50:16 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Heather Haight
Comment:	<p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the recommended reductions of certificated staff at school sites with specialty programs, including Kit Carson International Academy.</p> <p>The recommended cuts would eliminate positions, such as the IB Coordinator, which would result in the elimination of the Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood’s IB programs. Kit particularly has seen significant enrollment increases and improvements in test scores since becoming an IB certified school. THIS ALONE should be enough evidence in a district that says equity matters to keep the IB program. Kit has a diverse student body and the IB program meets the needs of students across racial, socioeconomic, and ability identities, among others.</p> <p>My son is in 7th grade and we'd plan for him to stay at Kit through college. Being part of a globally oriented program, one that instills dignity and worth in the broad population of all our students is what brought us and would keep us at Kit and in the district if it continues hosting the IB program.</p> <p>Additional reasons to keep the IB program includes it's draw for families into our district and keeping families in our district. Therefore, the program pays for itself.</p> <p>SCUSDs website touts the IB program as having a “hard-earned reputation for high standards of teaching and student achievement.” The website continues, “IB has a proven track record of high academic success...IB is one of the fastest growing educational programs on the planet.” Finally, “research shows that students who graduate from IB programs are better prepared for college and careers and have the highest GPAs in four-year university freshmen classes.”</p> <p>As the Board is responsible for establishing a long-term vision for the district and setting district policies and goals, it is incumbent on the Board members to make decisions that support specialty programs such as Kit Carson’s IB program.</p> <p>It was in exercising its long-term vision for the district that the then Board authorized Caleb Greenwood and Kit Carson to pursue authorization as IB World Schools. At that</p>

time, the board recognized the benefit of SCUSD offering the prestigious academic program across an entire K-12 education track.

The schools then undertook the multi-year processes of consideration, candidacy and authorization that included years of teacher training, the raising of curriculum to a level that meets IB standards, verification visits from the IB organization, as well as construction costs to convert the middle school into an IB high school for seventh to twelfth grades. In 2016, Kit became the first SCUSD school to offer the IB for middle school years, thereby fortifying that Board's vision to offer the IB program for grades K-12.

I urge you to acknowledge the long-term vision that brought the IB program at Kit into existence; and to consider the hours, effort and costs incurred by the district to achieve the vision of offering this prestigious program. I urge you to protect this growing program, and by doing so, further what is set out in the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan: to "focus on proven strategies that directly impact our students' ability to access high quality instruction and receive the appropriate supports to help them become college and career ready."

Elimination of these specialty programs will do more harm than good for our struggling district. The efforts and resources to obtain the IB authorization have been committed to and achieved. It is not the time to eliminate those programs; rather it is time to support the programs in achieving the goals set out in the District's Strategic Plan. The IB program addresses the mission by being a proven strategy, by providing students access to high quality instruction, and by supporting students in becoming college and career ready.

I urge you to preserve the IB programs at Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood. Otherwise you are looking at more families exiting programs and ultimately losing students from the district, which has already seen a hemorrhage during this pandemic. Cutting this program will not achieve the results you desire - more students flourishing, more students staying in-district, more equitable opportunities for students from different communities within SCUSD's boundaries.

Heather Haight

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/26/2021 11:03:02 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Sarah Soto-Taylor
Comment:	<p>January 26, 2021 Superintendent Aguilar and School Board Members,</p> <p>This letter is to express my deep concerns with SCUSD Fiscal Recovery Plan which includes deducting 1.6 teachers from the middle school program at Leonardo da Vinci School. Reducing 1.6 teaching positions would eliminate our middle school program. Both my daughters attend Leonardo da Vinci K-8 school. My oldest daughter excelled in the integrated thematic instruction model and will be graduating this year well prepared for her high school of choice. My youngest daughter is in 6th grade and we look forward to her continuing her middle school education at Leonardo da Vinci</p> <p>Leonardo da Vinci school is exceptional in many ways. Principal Davis has shown great commitment to fiscal responsibility and student inclusiveness that has led to highly engaged parent participation throughout the entire school campus. Leonardo da Vinci is a model that should be elevated and replicated not dismantled as the current Fiscal Recovery Plan describes.</p> <p>From kindergarten through 8th grade, parents at Leonardo da Vinci routinely invest at least 40 hours each school year to classroom assistance, driving on field trips, and other volunteer activities. I personally look back at the time I spent with my daughters at their school, with their peers, other parents, and teachers as some of the most rewarding times of my life. My daughters are confident students and have achieved academic success as a result of the foundation the primary AND middle school have provided.</p> <p>Middle school at Leonardo da Vinci should not be eliminated. A more comprehensive review of the school would reveal that 7th and 8th grade students thrive in the small school setting. At high rates parents choose to continue their child's middle school education at Leonardo da Vinci. In fact, there is a waiting list for entrance into the middle school. It does not make fiscal or programmatic sense to eliminate this exceptional program. It is my sincere hope that the Board will take into consideration the value Leonardo da Vinci middle school serves and does not consider any reductions to the program.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sarah Soto-Taylor, Parent</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/26/2021 11:52:25 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Katherine Sanders
Comment:	<p>My name is Katie Sanders and I am the parent of two seventh grade boys at Leonardo da Vinci eK-8 School. My sons started at LdV in fourth grade, after spending their K-3 years in Montessori Schools. I chose LdV knowing my sons would be able to move from Elementary School with many of their classmates into a small Middle School. I believe a smaller Middle School is the best environment for my sons because they are more comfortable and confident with small peer groups, and because there is more opportunity to develop strong bonds with their teachers. If you remove 1.6 FTE from the Middle School, my sons will not be able to finish 8th grade at LdV. The whole MS is run on four main academic teachers, an art teacher and a PE teacher. If you remove 1.6 FTE, Leonardo da Vinci Middle School would not survive. LdV is an amazing program with strong parental support. Our parent group raises over \$100,000 a year to pay for our specialized field trips that supplement lessons in several subject areas and other programs. We raise enough money so that EVERY child gets to go on the trips. Last year, my sons took part in a week long trip to Yosemite with their sixth grade class. LdV not only provides an academically rich program, it also enriched students lives in the arts. Both of my sons participated in morning music classes, one in band and the other in orchestra. Please reconsider removing 1.6 FTE from the Middle School and think about the long term consequences of eliminating a successful 31-year old program. Thank you, Katie Sanders</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 7:46:14 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	<p>Hello i am a parent of a new comer 9th grader to KCIA. I don't understand why would you like into cutting staff and the IB program to this school. It would be devastated to all the students that what to attend a small very high educating school after what they have gone thru during this pandemic. KCIA has been a motivation school to my daughter she is a good student with good grades due to KCIA and the motivation why staying at KCIA . Where this school is not just a school is family to all our kids who attend. You would be making a big mistake if you decide wrong. We are here for our kids they are our future and i feel our generation is turning out back on them. Please reconsider your thought and think about our kids our future, that is why education is first. Martinez</p>
Comment:	

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/25/2021 11:34:23 PM

From: Daniel Ruiz
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 12:20 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Agenda item 7.2 Recovery Plan

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

Comment on Board Discussion

I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to the recommended reductions of certificated staff at school sites with specialty programs, including Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood. Because these cuts would eliminate the IB Coordinator position, these reductions would mean the elimination of the IB programs at these schools.

As you likely know, both campuses have had significant enrollment increases and improvements in test scores since becoming IB certified schools. These programs draw families into our district and keep families in our district, and as such, the pay for themselves.

I am a strong proponent of public schools - my Grandsons are 5th graders and 8th graders have attended SCUSD schools since kindergarten, but without these programs, we will likely leave the district.

I understand from my daughter that the "home" high school for River Park is Rosemont - a 30 minute drive each direction - that's unacceptable. Now, thanks to the new programming at Kit, we finally have a great option for high school - we owe it to our children to preserve this program. I urge you to protect this growing, promising, program.

Being a former Internal Audit Director for a \$20 billion Dollar Corporation and a Process Improvement Consultant at major consulting firms such as IBM, I am pretty qualified at identifying missed opportunities and helping turn things around. Just one example; I am wondering if you have done any benchmarking with other school districts that got themselves into financial difficulties?

I am surprised that you as a board let yourself get into this financial situation. I know the Covid pandemic hurt the situation but from what I have learned so far that is not the main cause, but just the tipping point.

I plan to take a further look at the Presentation for this agenda item to see if I can see any obvious faults. Getting rid of the IB program after it has done so much to improve your educational goals seems not to make sense.

Dan Ruiz
Feel free to contact me if you like.

From: Nancy Fitzpatrick
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:50 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Fiscal Recovery Plan

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links.

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

I am writing to express my concern that the current Fiscal Recovery Plan strips our schools and our district of some of the unique programs that make our schools successful.

My family and I appreciate the work our teachers, staff, administrators and leaders do everyday to bring a strong and vibrant education to our students. We have been, however, concerned with the budget management of the district and the strain that has put on all parties. Unfortunately, the students have paid the price for a legacy of budget and bargaining disfunction. The latest Fiscal Recovery Plan is not an acceptable solution to the district's budget woes. Obviously, some cuts will have to be made, however, we consider it unacceptable to make cuts only in the non-negotiable category. We expect that all of the represented staff will make a sacrifice and we also expect the district administration to reduce salary increases and staff. To make cuts based on an FTE formula that would effectively cut programs by cutting staff (take Caleb Greenwood's IB Program, for example) negates the hard work school site councils, parents, and staff have invested over years to bring families back to SCUSD schools and keep them there. These kind of cuts hurt students now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Nancy Fitzpatrick

From: Stacy A Hayashi
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 10:40 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment Jan 26 Meeting

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links.

Dear SCUSD Board Members,

My name is Stacy Hayashi and I'm a parent of two children at Caleb Greenwood Elementary School. I'm writing about the Fiscal Recovery Plan on the agenda for January 26.

As stated at the December 10th meeting, I am disappointed to see the continued projected cuts in the FRP removing specialized and necessary programs at SCUSD schools. Programs like IB and Waldorf draw students in from across and outside the district. Specifically related to the IB program, Caleb Greenwood generates enough revenue in a single year to pay for their full program expenses and generate additional revenue for the district. We had hoped to continue our children's IB learning at Kit Carson. However, should the program be cancelled, we would most likely look outside of SCUSD for Middle and High School. The IB Coordinator positions at these schools are vital, and are required to maintain IB status.

I understand the importance and need for fiscal responsibility however, I'm concerned about the impact the FRP has on the district's most vulnerable students, poverty-impacted students and schools. There are ways to reduce the budget without the students' having the bare the brunt of the impact. Please look at negotiating the medical benefits package, which has been shown to be expensive and the cost driver.

Please be mindful of the critical support vulnerable students need to succeed, and keep the programs drawing students to the district. Thank you.

Stacy Hayashi, M.Ed.

Academic Program Management Officer

Clinical and Translational Science Center – Working Remotely

UC DAVIS
HEALTH

Clinical and Translational
Science Center

From: Marco Colucci
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:29 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Caleb Greenwood

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. †

To whom it may concern,

My children are alumni of

Caleb Greenwood and I cannot stress enough how important and beneficial this school is to the children and community.

The teachers, staff and all school families are all equally in full support of maintaining the quality and need of this school.

I as a parent and taxpayer am in strong opposition of reducing or negatively altering the funding for this school or any schools right now. Make your budget cuts in other sectors NOT education!!!

It's YOUR poor mismanagement of funds and Bureaucratic policy that is having a disastrous effect on California. DO YOUR JOB!!!!

-Marco Colucci

January 25, 2021

7.2

Dear SCUSD Board of Education Members:

My name is Mary Kelly and I am the parent of a 9th grade student at Kit Carson International Academy. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the recommended reductions of certificated staff at school sites with specialty programs, including Kit Carson. The recommended cuts would eliminate positions, such as the IB Coordinator, which would result in the elimination of the Kit Carson's IB program. Kit Carson has had significant enrollment increases and improvements in test scores since becoming an IB certified school. The IB program draws families into our district and keeps families in our district, and as such, the program pays for itself.

The communities of River Park and East Sacramento have long had no reasonable high school choices. Most neighbors request an inter-district transfer or send their students to private school. However, with the IB program at Kit Carson, we finally have a great alternative for our neighborhood high school, as well as the opportunity to be a school that draws students from other districts, as does the IB program at Mira Loma High School.

The **SCUSDs website** touts the IB program as having a "hard-earned reputation for high standards of teaching and student achievement." It continues, "IB has a proven track record of high academic success...IB is one of the fastest growing educational programs on the planet." Finally, "research shows that students who graduate from IB programs are better prepared for college and careers and have the highest GPAs in four-year university freshmen classes."

As the Board is responsible for establishing the District's long-term vision, it is incumbent on the members to make decisions that support specialty programs. The then Board was exercising its long-term vision when authorizing Caleb Greenwood and Kit Carson to pursue the IB World School authorization. At that time, the board recognized the benefit of SCUSD offering the prestigious academic program across an entire K-12 education track.

The schools' undertook years long processes of training teachers, raising curriculum to meet IB standards, as well as the construction process to convert the middle school into an IB high school. In 2016, Kit Carson became the first SCUSD school to offer the IB for middle school years, thereby realizing that Board's vision to offer the IB program for grades K-12.

I urge you to acknowledge the long-term vision that brought the IB programs to Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood; and to consider the hours, effort and costs incurred by the district to be able to offer this prestigious program. I urge you to protect this growing program, and by doing so, further what is set out in the **2016-2021 Strategic Plan**: to "focus on proven strategies that directly impact our students' ability to access high quality instruction and receive the appropriate supports to help them become college and career ready." I urge you to preserve the funding that will allow IB programs at Kit Carson and Caleb Greenwood to continue to grow and succeed.

Elimination of these specialty programs will do more harm than good for our struggling district. It is not the time to make cuts that will eliminate these programs; rather it is the time to support the programs in achieving the mission of the Strategic Plan. The IB program addresses the mission by being a proven strategy, by providing students access to high quality instruction, and by supporting students in becoming college and career ready.

Sincerely,

Mary Kelly



TO: SCUSD School Board and Superintendent Aguillar

FROM: Devon Davis, Leonardo da Vinci K-8 School Principal

RE: LdV Middle School School Closure Vote Under FRP

DATE: January 26, 2021

Dear SCUSD School Board and Superintendent Aguillar,,

Greetings and thank you for your commitment to serving the children in Sacramento City Unified School District. The District Fiscal Recovery Plan includes a vote to go before the school board that includes closing our established and successful middle school program. I have the pressure, opportunity and necessity to introduce myself to you and highlight this exceptional school. I urge you to support this wonderful school and not vote to close our successful middle school program or close our thriving band program.

Leonardo da Vinci School eK-8th Grade School was created by a dedicated group of parents and staff members who presented a dream to the SCUSD school board in 1988. The core tenants of the new school charter included: open enrollment K-8th grade school site, Integrated Thematic Instruction, access for special education students (now referred to 'Inclusive Practices), and emphasis on arts and sciences. The SCUSD School Board approved the K-8 program presented and the school was recognized as a federally funded arts and sciences magnet school. This was before 'charter' was a designation. 31 years later, LdV continues as a eK-8 School. While we have no magnet funding, we continue to have HET Curriculum, an emphasis on arts and sciences, inclusive inspired practices for students with special needs, parent leadership and parent volunteers, and a campus that has a waiting list at every grade level. We have a diverse student population, 37% of our students qualify to receive free and reduced lunch, and we continue to receive high achievement accolades. CAASPP scores that exceed district and state averages. Leonardo da Vinci School has received the following awards:

- 2008 California Distinguished School
- 2017 State Civic Award Honorable Mention
- 2019 Celebrating Three Years (2016-2019) of Student Academic Growth

School Mission: Leonardo da Vinci K-8 School is a community dedicated to the development of the whole child as a literate, curious, and inventive person, responsible for

preserving and creating beauty in cultural and natural environments. LdV fosters this Renaissance child of the Arts and Sciences model through Integrated Thematic Instruction.

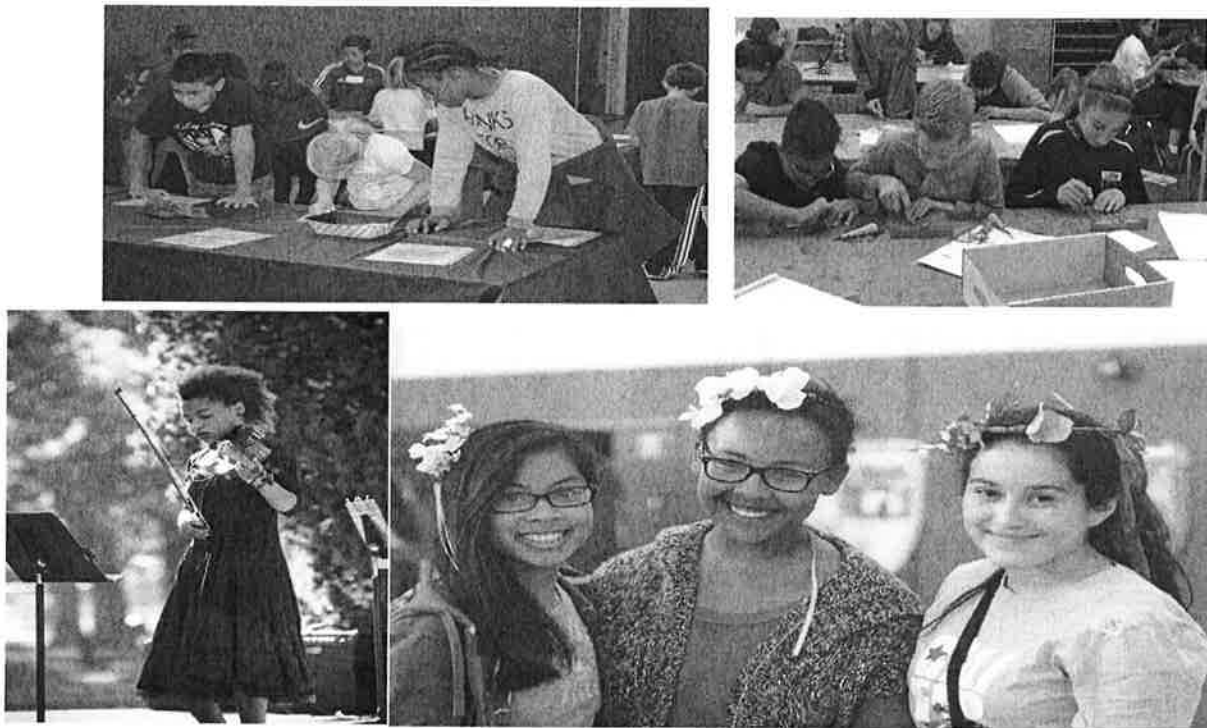
Leonardo da Vinci School (LdV) was established in 1988 as an early kindergarten through 8th grade school site and today there are now 886 students enrolled. The student makeup includes one early kindergarten class, four classes at each grade level from kindergarten to third grade, three classes for each grade level from fourth to sixth grade, and 156 middle school students. Students in middle school grades 7 and 8 rotate to six different classes and are taught by teachers who hold single subject credentials and experience teaching high school. Students are taught through board-adopted texts, thematic instruction (Highly Effective Teaching formerly called Integrated Thematic Instruction), and mastery projects (long term, in-depth projects supported by written report and oral presentation). In addition, LdV incorporates the following into thematic units used at every grade level: field trips, large end-of-unit projects, research projects, oral presentations, science instruction, social science curriculum that connects to the English Language Arts Program, and math that covers the four common core domains.

My name is Devon Davis and I have served as principal of Leonardo da Vinci School for 14 years. Previously, I worked as an Assistant Principal at Luther Burbank High and Rosemont High School. During my undergraduate, graduate and credential program, I worked within SCUSD K-12 schools as a traveling visual and performing arts teacher with the Very Special Arts Program to lead 'mainstreaming' for special education students through arts standards and education. I have had the opportunity to help create small learning communities in our high schools, complete the IB teacher training process at Luther Burbank High School, help to build the new Rosemont High School, and grow Leonardo da Vinci School, a highly sought after program, from 540 students to 886 students. I am dedicated to a process of analyzing student data to ensure equity and support for every student to meet grade level foundational skills. I am dedicated to building the capacity of teachers and parents to be leaders. With community support and whole child dedication, we accomplish goals. For nineteen years, I have served as a school administrator for SCUSD. LdV has a talented Assistant Principal for 8 years, Tiffany Ballard, and a talented teaching team that have come and stayed as "career teachers". Our support staff also have longevity to the program. With our school community, we have been champion supporters for SCUSD and I am an exceptionally positive steward for our district.

In late November 2020, I was informed that the district was considering a 1.6 FTE reduction to our middle school program. There was some unclear rationale behind the idea that this would increase revenue. That is not accurate and I had thought that with understanding of our program, our consistent wait list and some consideration of having an established and exceptional school- that the proposed cut would be taken off the table and not sent to the school board for a middle school closure vote and not put forth on a public document. This has caused tremendous discord and stress to not only Leonardo da Vinci but many other schools facing cuts that will dismantle long established programs. Without a minimum of five teachers, LdV does not have the basic number of teachers needed to offer middle school classes to our 150 students. If 1.6 teachers are cut, the middle school would close, and the teachers/students relocated. The students on another campus would need more than five teachers. Our teachers teach extra classes in order to make the master schedule viable. There is no fiscal benefit to closure.

The SCUSD impact statement refers to the 20-21 school year and reducing 1.6 teachers. The document refers to having teachers with a multiple subject schedule. This would mean two groups of 7th graders and two groups of 8th graders would have the same teacher all day and rotate out for math. This model still requires five teachers.

Our current middle school faculty are single subject credentialed teachers who all have high school experience. The teachers go above and beyond their contract in order to provide several levels of classes and a range of elective programs. Below we can see middle school Mathletes (middle school lead math centers for eK-6th grade), art lab, music at the Promotion Ceremony inspired by our band teacher, and middle school leaders wearing accessories at the annual Renaissance Faire:



LdV Middle School Program is fiscally sound. To relocate the faculty and students would not increase district revenue. The students would suffer at the loss of participating in confidence building academic activities and school connections.

All students at LdV have access to high quality teaching and instruction

- A majority of middle schools make the honor roll every year
 - 2020-21 67% earned a 3.0 or higher
 - 2019-20 82% earned a 3.0 or higher
 - 2018-19 75% earned a 3.0 or higher
- 97% attendance rate
- 1.8% Suspension Rate
- Teachers tutor and support students before school, during lunch and after school

Not including the Fiscal Recovery Plan, for 21-22, our budget includes that the middle school was issued a reduction of a .4 teachers. We are utilizing the funding of this .4 reductions with our LFCC LI and general fund supply budget to make sure we have needed minimum 5 teachers to offer this exceptional program to students. All five positions should be and are the definition of district general fund positions. For now, we are making the site level cuts to supplies and LCFF LI in order to function. We are expecting that the .4 will be restored.

In our Middle School, students access GATE classes in English, math, history and science. Students access on level classes. Students access special education services. In addition, our faculty and parents ensure a range of enrichment opportunities: competitive athletics, student government, science club, speech, Shakespeare Club, field trips, and guest speakers. High achievement data, low suspensions, and high attendance lead to a comfortable climate to build academic skills, SEL competencies and confidence. In 2004, the SCUSD Visually Impaired Program was placed at LdV so that students with no vision or very low vision could receive regular education classes and receive appropriate VI services. Ms. Haines was the teacher in 2004 and she continues her eK-8th program today. There is no other program of this nature in Northern California. We have the same speech and RSP teachers so that students with special needs receive a continuum of services.

Middle School Academics and Culture, led by five teachers:

LdV Students Academic Extension and Enrichment Opportunities

- 20 science labs per year per grade level
- Participate in the LdV & regional science fair
- Competitive Mathletes team
- Annual Student Art Show
- Excellent Speech & Debate team
- Participate in National History Day
- 8-10 field trips every year for ALL middle school students
- Are student leaders for Mathematica, the Renaissance Faire, "Are you smarter than a 5th grader?", Playground Pals, Cafe da Vinci, LdV Variety Show, etc.
- Quarterly Academic Celebrations, waffles with Maltby, Halloween Showdown between Croft and Androlowicz, etc
- LdV Student Government - school spirit days, service projects (canned food drive, front street shelter, empty bowl soup dinner), middle school dances, ASB meetings, rallies, etc
- Competitive Athletics Program

LdV Band Program: Leonardo da Vinci Families come to LdV with the dream that their children will have access to band starting in 2nd grade. Ms. Nakayama has taught at LdV for 13 years. She teaches a start up band, Advanced Band, and middle school band (where up to 45 students attend). She leads our students towards silver and gold medals at the annual regional and state level music competitions. She supports the SCUSD Honor Band and our students participate annually. The band students participate in two concerts per year. Ms. Nakayama arranges her own fundraisers for student awards, competitions, instrument repair and replacement.

The guidelines for school closure is outlined by the California Department of Education and we have not met any of the criteria with notifications and meetings. There is a necessity to honor parent voices and student needs with community meetings and placement plans before a closure takes place.

January 26, 2021: The school board will discuss the proposed cuts to programs developed over decades so that the district can make short term loan repayments. Successful school programs, IB programs and Inclusive Practices are the evidence that we are achieving the district guiding principal.

On February 4, 2021, the school board will vote on programs and staffing. Regardless of the school board vote outcome, there is a spotlight on the need for a valid understanding of school programs and staffing. Long after the school board consideration, fact gathering, discussion and vote, there are site leaders and school communities that have been devastated. With this spotlight beaming on the District Fiscal Recovery Plan, we can move forward by recognizing an insurmountable disconnection and take some action steps towards communication and support. If our school programs and staffing were understood, the history and development of our programs and staffing were recognized, there would be alignment with the fiscal recovery plan.

In 19 years, I have never led parent meetings to have parents speak at a board meeting. We have held two parent informational meetings as we have the responsibility to share information and save our school. In 19 years, I have never issued a letter of this nature to the SCUSD school board and Superintendent. It is with conviction that I share I am a supporter and advocate of Leonardo da Vinci and SCUSD schools.

Please do not vote to close our middle school program and band program. The district is receiving over \$60 million dollars in state funding and additional millions of federal dollars. UPE sent the school board a list of possible funding sources to prevent dismantling site programs that have been studied and developed over decades. We can use the Fiscal Recovery Plan as a starting point for genuine communication and to build the relationships needed so that we can shore up support for all our dynamic programs.

Thank you for being a part of SCUSD during a very important time in our history. The lives and futures of all our children, especially our African American, Hispanic, EL students, students with special needs, and our students dealing with trauma, have never needed more targeted focus and attention. I am excited to get to know you all and share the goal setting, achievements, and the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

Devon Davis

From:
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:45 PM
To:
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Contact the Board of Education

From:
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021
To:
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Board of Education

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WEBFORM SUBMISSION

Submitted by user



Name:
 Sloane Richardson

Email:

Phone Number:

Student Name (if applicable):
 Sloane Richardson

School (if applicable):
 Kit Carson International Academy

Comment or Question:

I was unable to submit this message through the link but I would like to make a comment on the budget meeting that will occur later today. I am an 11th-grade student at Kit Carson in the IB program. In the current plan, our school will potentially lose 5 teachers which will put our IB program at risk. I have worked hard in this program since I started at Kit Carson in 7th grade. If we lose our program I will have put in my hard work and not be able to reap the benefits. I will have nothing to show for the time and effort I have put in the last 4 1/2 years. I urge the district to rethink its plan that will negatively affect the students and teachers within this district. I am honestly furious that it even came to this position in the first place. The adults that control our district need to be much more worried about the consequences of their actions. Their concern should not only be shown when students speak up. If the district had a better relationship with the teachers union this would be in the hands of adults but instead, it is up to the teenagers that go to the schools in this district. I am disappointed in the leadership in charge of my education because my learning has become up for discussion when it shouldn't be. Children/teenagers should not have to worry about how their education will be affected not only on a day-to-day basis but also in the big picture. Thank you for your time.

OTHER INFORMATION

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Chrome 87.0



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You are receiving this e-mail because you have requested to receive district updates or signed up on our website. If you are receiving this message in error, please [contact us](#) so we can promptly resolve the problem.

From: Steve Johns
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 12:07 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Cc: Pam Johns
Subject: Board Agenda Items 7.1 and 7.2 January 26
Attachments: SCUSD Letter 01 26 21.docx

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links.

Attached please find a letter to the Board of Education for Items 7.1 and 7.2 on its January 26 Agenda.

Thank you,

Steve Johns

--
Steve Johns

Steve and Pam Johns

January 26, 2021

Board of Education
Sacramento City Unified School District
publiccomment@scusd.edu

Re: January 26 Board Special Meeting, Items 7.1 and 7.2:
Recognition of Structural Deficit and Budget and Recovery Plan Update

President Ryan and Board Members,

We are parents to a third grade student at Caleb Greenwood IB World School. We continue to be significantly concerned with the District's grave financial condition. While we are not able to access the substantive materials for Board Agenda Items 7.1 or 7.2, we agree that the District has a structural budget deficit that must be addressed with the Board and its labor partners at the table to resolve. Any recovery plan cannot rely on program cuts alone and should evaluate any potential cuts to ensure that they do not result in the loss of revenue.

On the first point, the District's financial condition must be addressed – going into receivership is not a viable option. Oakland Unified School District went into receivership in 2003 and was required to accept a \$100 million loan from the state. The burden of carrying the loan and paying interest has not benefitted Oakland Unified. It has had average annual budget deficits between \$20 and \$30 million dollars. One in five Oakland public schools scores in the bottom 5% statewide in math and English language arts proficiency. And, as of 2018, the District still had \$20 million left in the loan to repay. (See 2017-2018 Alameda County Grand Jury Final Report, "Oakland Unified School District: Hard Choices Needed to Prevent Insolvency.") Sacramento City Unified School District needs to resolve the financial condition to avoid this from happening here.

On the second point, Caleb Greenwood is an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School offering the Primary Years Program. This successful program was established several years ago through a collaboration of the school, its families, and the community in response to Caleb's decreasing enrollment due to students attending

school elsewhere. I was engaged with many of the community members and parents during these discussions, and they were eager to establish a program that would provide their families with an alternative to private school.

The IB program has been enormously successful and is recognized throughout the region. With the program in place, Caleb Greenwood's enrollment has increased from 401 students in 2013/2014 to 559 students in 2019/20. This 39% increase is significant – not only does the annual revenue from increased enrollment cover the costs associated with IB program, but it also provides additional revenue to the district. Decimating programs such as the IB World School program at Caleb won't resolve the structural budget deficit. It will, in fact, cost the District additional revenue.

The proposed Fiscal Recovery Plan considered last December would have eliminated the IB Coordinator position Caleb Greenwood, which would prevent the school from being re-authorized as an IB World School. This will likely affect Caleb's, and the District's, future success.

The District has a structural budget deficit that must be addressed. Any recovery plan cannot rely on program cuts alone and should evaluate potential cuts to ensure that they do not actually result in the loss of revenue.

Sincerely,

Steve and Pam Johns