

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Alina Cervantes
Comment:	<p>Our children are currently getting instruction for only 3.5 hours a day, with some of that reduced on certain days for teacher prep time. When we return to in-person learning with the current proposal, we will be reduced to only 3 hours of live instruction a day, with only 6 hours in person. We will be getting 2.5 less hours of live instruction than we are getting now. This is appalling and all adults pushing for this even further reduced schedule should be ashamed of themselves. To our district negotiating team, we are counting on you to do all you can to get our kids back in school full time, just like so many other kids across the state. Why do SCUSD kids deserve less than other kids? For those that don't want their kids back in-person, they have the option to stay in distance learning. For the rest of us, please fight for our kids to have what they are owed and currently being denied- the right to a free, appropriate, public education.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/15/2021 7:38:03 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Alison Alexander
Comment:	<p>Hello members of the board and Sup. Aguilar. I am writing once again to implore you to save the Parent Participation pre-school program. It remains one of the only affordable pre-school options for low and middle income families in the entire Sacramento region. We must stand together as a community at SCUSD to say that early childhood education is a priority. Now that a return to in-person learning is rapidly approaching, the program at Edward Kelly already has a waiting list of families ready to come back. This program would be fully self funded, through tuition, if it weren't for Covid's effects on enrollment. Please use the CARES money to fund this program until the programs can be fully enrolled, at pre-covid enrollment numbers. This is a perfect opportunity to spend CARES money in a way that directly benefits students who have been impacted by Covid. Thank you for your consideration.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 8:38:22 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Nate Lloyd
Comment:	<p>Dear Board Members, parents teachers & community members,</p> <p>I am writing in support of SCUSD's Parent Participation Preschool (PPP) program. This affordable, high quality preschool program provides an excellent start for kids and support for parents navigating early childhood. Please continue to fund this wonderful program. My daughter and I have benefited greatly and we hope other families will continue have the opportunity to attend. Early childhood education is so important for school readiness, the PPP program not only provides this, it encourages parent involvement in education.</p> <p>It would be a great loss to our community if we were to lose this program. I hope you will continue to keep the Parent Participation Preschool program at SCUSD. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 9:12:27 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Allison Sinclair
Comment:	Please use the CARES money to fund and save the Parent Participation pre-school program until the programs can be fully enrolled, at pre-covid enrollment numbers. This is a perfect opportunity to spend CARES money in a way that directly benefits students who have been impacted by Covid as this is one of the only affordable pre-school options for low and middle income families in the entire Sacramento region

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 9:25:10 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Nicole Freedman
Comment:	<p>I write to express my concern about the potential loss of the Parent Participation Preschool at SCUSD. Sacramento is plagued with both academic and economic inequality. Affordable preschool lessens these inequalities by nurturing early childhood development and kindergarten readiness.</p> <p>Affordable preschool options are limited, especially for families that do not qualify for either head start or TK. The potential loss of one of the few remaining affordable, high quality preschools in Sacramento will be devastating to families, young children, and SCUSD as a whole.</p> <p>The pandemic has greatly impacted schooling and cuts are necessary, but the parent participation preschool cannot be another covid sacrifice. Cutting a much needed, high quality, and affordable program for early childhood education will have lasting effects on young children in SCUSD.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 9:35:31 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Julia Willsie
Comment:	<p>Dear SCUSD Board. As a parent, I am happy to have my child back in school, in person. Please help to speed the timeline to 5 days a week in the classroom. The 2 day a week program is highly disruptive to both kids and families. It creates severe challenges with work, and hard-built community PODs. Please help to create consistency for our students and teachers.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Julia Willsie</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 10:48:17 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	John Buchholz
Comment:	April 8 is not good enough. It's been over a year since my children have been in a classroom. My son has had more Zoom school in his life than live instruction. We entered the red tier yesterday. We should be open now. Every single day that passes is hurting our children and our families. April 8 is still three weeks away and when I look around I see other neighboring districts already open. Three weeks away is not good enough. SCUSD and the SCTA need to put politics aside, follow the science, and open the classrooms NOW for the sake of our families and children. Enough is enough.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 11:02:56 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Richard Dahl
Comment:	<p>I am speaking out of concern for the Parent Participation Preschool Program that my daughter attends. I know that you are considering cuts to the program. Of all the decisions you could make to remain solvent and avoid a state takeover, this is among the most shortsighted paths you could take.</p> <p>The lifelong benefits of early high-quality interventions like preschool are well known. Students who attend school with a skillful teacher like Miss Tamara—whose ability to create a loving and caring classroom that promotes social, emotional, and intellectual growth—are better people because of it. The benefits for the child and the community are unmatched by almost any other intervention in education. These students are healthier, less likely to drop out of school, less likely to go to jail , more likely to pursue higher education, and more likely to be economically self-sufficient.</p> <p>As Vinson Cunningham wrote in his recent piece for the New Yorker, "We are all embedded within systems, but each life—each child—is an unrepeatable anecdote." If you cut this program, you will injure the future trajectories of the children in our community. And the students from under-resourced areas will be hurt the most, they risk becoming, "a 'statistic,' subsumed into a mass of low expectations and bad outcomes determined by color and class and sustained by a bureaucracy that was, at best, inept and, at worst, intractably racist." Do not allow our children to become just another "statistic", some program that was cut to make SCUSD's balance sheet more attractive to the auditors.</p> <p>If you cut the Parent Preschool Participation program you are proving that you cannot be entrusted to make prudent decisions for our children or community.</p> <p>We implore you to work together with your community and to find solutions that are not so ill advised. Thank you for listening.</p> <p>Richard Dahl, Leonardo da Vinci '00, McClatchy '04</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 11:18:25 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Joy Baird
Comment:	<p>Do not cut the Parent Participation Preschool Program</p> <p>I understand that you are considering eliminating the Parent Participation Preschool Program. This is a unique and vital resource for parents with preschool aged children. Early Childhood Education has been proven to boost school success, increase graduation rates and provide much needed support and education for parents with young children. The Parent Participation Program is the only affordable option for preschoolers in the SCUSD system. It allows families and young children, who might not otherwise be able to afford preschool, a quality educational experience.</p> <p>Please continue to operate this valuable program and be a champion for our youngest students.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Joy Bonds-Baird, M.S., CCC-SLP</p> <p>joybaird@gmail.com</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 11:22:52 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Peter Baird
Comment:	<p>Please do not cut the Parent Participation Preschool Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o It educates young children and their parentso It's the only affordable option for parents.o This move would further deny access to equitable education here in Sacramentoo The Federal aid to local schools from the federal government should soon be in the pipeline.o My own children (and myself) benefitted from this program 30 years ago, and now my grandchild and daughter are experiencing this important program.o Two year-old children should be included, not excluded.o Rather than cut programs, seek additional funding ---- it's what we hope for from our elected officials like yourself. <p>Respectfully yours, Dr. Peter J. Baird</p> <p>Faculty Emeritus, Sacramento State University, College of Education</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 11:24:11 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Amanda Hague
Comment:	<p>It is with much frustration and confusion that we are here, yet again, FIGHTING FOR and attempting to shine light on the VALUE and NEED for the Parent Participation Preschool Program of SCUSD. This district is flat out failing at its obligation to protect learning FOR ALL children. We attend the Tahoe PPP with Ms Tamara Toby who has been a god send not only for my child but for us as parents navigating the challenges of parenthood for the first time. We have been provided with workshops, resources, and support through the PPP that have enabled us to be better parents and ultimately helped my son thrive. Having parents involved in early education establishes a bond with their child of cooperation and positivity as the child develops and learns to navigate the academic system. Without this invaluable program, there will be many children left out of the opportunity to benefit from their parents direct involvement in their development. Think of it as “learn as you go” vs “guide as you grow” type of approach to parenting. Learning valuable parenting tools, and developing a cooperative relationship with their child’s academics and learning style can only benefit through the rest of the child’s academic experience and life. This program takes place in our immediate communities where we live, vs commuting to other neighborhoods to get to “better” schools and is affordable compared to all other preschool programs. ALL children and families should have access to something like this. There is not another program that I am aware of that can provide this level of benefit for both parents and children.</p> <p>This district knows what value this program brings to the communities it serves, and has failed to protect it. The director in particular, Dr. Susan Gilmore, has been aware for over a year of the struggle we are having to acquire funding to keep our program going. She has not assisted with grant applications, has not provided us with accurate budget breakdowns to help us understand where the districts money is being spent or where we could try to pull from or cut back on to maintain this program. Sue has had many opportunities to take action otherwise on behalf of this program and has sat idle as there have been salary raises to members of the board and super intendant... ALL WHILE OUR TEACHERS HAVE SUFFERED from receiving pink slips year after year and the uncertainty of what’s to come. SUE AND THIS BOARD/DISTRICT SHOULD BE DOWNRIGHT EMBARRASSED BY THEIR LACK OF CONCERN AND ACTION!!! I can only speak of my direct participation at Tahoe PPP though I know the teachers at all of the sites deserve better. Ms Tamara has gone above and beyond for this program, even facilitating online ZOOM preschool for the last full year in an attempt to keep our children and families engaged through this pandemic. She is the ONLY teacher doing ZOOM preschool in the entire district and maybe state/country. THAT IS THE KIND OF DEDICATED TEACHER THIS DISTRICT IS GIVING A PINK SLIP TO!!! This district cannot afford to lose teachers like her. SHE DESERVES BETTER SUPPORT</p>

FROM THIS DISTRICT! How does anyone sleep at night knowing our teachers shoulder the burden of this district? How do these issues continue to be left unaddressed and unsolved?? How has no one made this their personal matter of action to get this program legitimized in the eyes of this district? How has no one been removed from their position for inaction/low productivity/inability to do their job? Who is in charge of holding the district accountable for its continued failures? HOW HAS NO ONE TAKEN A STAND FOR WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE CHILDREN IF NOTHING ELSE???

I was told before moving to this neighborhood that SCUSD is one of the WORST school districts in all of California, but I had hope that with time it would improve. I am here to say that nearly two decades later it continues to FLAIL AND FAIL. It's beyond disappointing that we are here... again... begging to keep our program going.

So what about solutions?

Grants? Too late, thanks to Sue.

Redistribution of funding? Unlikely due to Sue being useless in this concept.

Federal PANDEMIC aid? Probably too much effort for this district to seek...

Can someone get the Parent Participation Program out from under "Adult Education" so we can get the funding we need??? Simple as that??? Maybe? Probably also too late, thanks to Sues inaction.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! We live in so much uncertainty in this current world, and giving our teachers and children stability, support, and security is THE VERY LEAST THEY DESERVE.

The children are our future! What we do for them now will directly affect their ability to care for us in the future when it's up to them to decide what is truly valuable.

I IMPLORE THIS BOARD TO DO SOMETHING...ANYTHING... TO HELP US SAVE PPP AND LEGITIMIZE IT INDEFINITELY FOR OUR CHILDREN, TEACHERS, & COMMUNITIES!!!!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 11:25:31 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Lily Young
Comment:	<p>Please do not cut funding for the Parent Participation Preschool program. Cutting this program will widen the achievement gap and reduce equity to high-quality public education in our school district. This low-cost program for parents is the ONLY accessible option for families who could not otherwise afford early childhood education. I graduated from this program myself over 30 years ago, and am so thankful to have my two-year-old currently enrolled in the toddler program. Although the pandemic requires us to be virtual-only, this has been a lifesaver to us during quarantine, and I know it has been for many other families as well. While the program may not be self-sustaining due to lower enrollment during quarantine, please think ahead to the future when this program will undoubtedly be self-sustaining again.</p> <p>Also, please allow toddlers (ages 2 and up) to return to in-person learning. They can return safely with masks, distancing and a limited class size.</p> <p>This program has a minimal cost to the district, and is of immense benefit to the community. You heard from dozens of parents and families last year when this program was threatened last year. In a year where we all need a positive space to learn and grow, please do not take this away from the community.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Lily Young</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 11:29:03 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Jillian Rich
Comment:	<p>Please save the parent participation preschool program at Tahoe elementary with Ms. Tamara. Early education is too important and this program is too unique to cut. It'd create a void for many parents and their young children to learn vital skills before entering kindergarten or early kindergarten. I've been pleasantly surprised at the amount and breadth of learning this year (for both me and my daughter) even through an online platform. This school has been our rock throughout this terrible year and I hate to see the opportunity taken from future parents and young kids, especially when I think it's so close to being cost neutral once safe in-person instruction allows for greater enrollment. Please take a longer-term outlook on this decision and keep at least a partial parent participation preschool program instead of cutting them all. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 11:30:30 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Hallie Hester-Dahl
Comment:	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>The Parent Participation Preschool is a unique program that serves a diverse array of families from across the district. It is engaging for both child and parent. It is simply everything a high quality preschool program should be. My family has been fortunate to participate in the program at Tahoe Elementary with the wonderful and dedicated Miss Tamara for the past three years. And for the past three years we have been faced with program cuts and pink slips for our hard-working teacher. We spent hours every week in the spring trying to find ways to save the program before we agreed to essentially double tuition to make the program self-sustaining. And then Covid hit, and enrollment for preschool and kindergarten dropped across the country. We are tired of fighting. We are tired of fighting and trying to convince you of how beneficial preschool is for children. We are tired of fighting and trying to prove to you how much Miss Tamara deserves to keep her job. We are tired of fighting for a program that does so much good for the community and receives very little support from the district.</p> <p>As a teacher myself I understand the great strains being placed on our educational system right now. And I understand you have to make difficult decisions. So I simply ask this, please do not cut the entire program. Really take a look at the enrollment at each site and keep the programs that have high numbers. If nothing else, the Tahoe and Jefferson programs should be preserved so that in the future when enrollment returns to normal and we have made it fully through the pandemic, the program can be built back up to its normal size. If you cut it completely, it is unlikely the district will ever have this amazing program again.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our community.</p> <p>Best, Hallie Hester-Dahl, Current Parent & SCUSD Alumna</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 11:50:47 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

March 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Michelle Sweezey
Comment:	It is absolutely critical that we move forward with a reopening plan. Our students deserve the same quality of education as is offered to their peers in neighboring districts and in local private schools and it is frankly unacceptable that we have not yet come to an agreement for doing so. Our district continues to profoundly fail students and is at continual risk of losing families and funding as folks choose educational opportunities that actually center their needs. The current proposal is a shortsighted attempt to return and is untenable for any working family to engage in.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/18/2021 11:56:16 AM

Hello Board Members,

I am writing to urge you to do the right thing. What is the right thing? If you said, "building the Child Development department back up", you would be correct. Give the children back the \$554,000 you voted to keep from them at 1 am in your last meeting. Your budget is showing a surplus of over 74 million dollars for this year. This is not including the 331 million dollars the district has recently received or will receive shortly for Covid 19 recovery and reopening. The children need preschool now more than ever. If I read the CARES act correctly, and I am sure I did, some of the state money you received was specifically designated to help support preschool programs.

Negative certifications have cost this district \$600,000 per year since 2019. How can we be a negatively certified district when we have surplus? The answer is SCOE is getting the money from the district to maintain the negative certification. Dave Gordon will not meet with the SCTA because he knows he is wrong and takes money from our district to pad his pockets at the expense of the children. Stop paying SCOE and tell the public the truth. There is a surplus and there has been a surplus for years. We teach our children not to lie. Children learn through modeling. Be a good example and stop blatantly misleading the public and give the money back to the children. Stop making SCTA the scapegoat for your lies. Start searching for the facts. They are easy to find. Stop stealing from our children.

Research shows the importance of preschool. The children development teachers have vocalized the value of preschool. The kindergarten teachers have voiced their concerns about children who do not get to go to preschool. Parents have asked that you keep the programs that have given their children success in school and in life. You have even heard from the children about the importance of preschool. Why do you keep voting against the program? Against the research? Against the CHILDREN?

These children are the neediest of needy. They need a head start just so they can start kindergarten near the level of their middle-income peers. The child development program at SCUSD serves high risk children, children of color, English Language Learners, foster children, children with incarcerated parents, homeless children, and many other high need populations. These teachers give quality instruction to our children.

It is amazing to me that for the last 12 years the district has had a surplus. Year after year after year there has been a deficit reported to the media and the public yet the numbers on the paper state there is a surplus. It is on your own website; you should check it out sometime. There is a structural surplus not a structural deficit. Do a little research and stop being deceived. Disregard the information from Rose Ramos and certify the budget correctly as a surplus so we can stop paying SCOE hundreds of thousands of dollars.

I am seriously concerned about the direction of our district especially when it comes to the interest they show in money over concern for the needs of students. Give the money back to Child Development and reinstate the parent participation preschool programs. It will cost the district less than one million dollars to cover both of those programs. Stop padding the pockets of SCOE and Jorge Aguilar. Stop the deception and do the right thing.

Thank you for your time,

Suzanne G. Gonzales

Suzanne Gonzales

From: Naomi Vioria
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 4:29 PM
To: Christina Pritchett; Lisa Murawski; Darrel Woo; Leticia Garcia; Jamee Villa; Chinua Rhodes; Lavinia Phillips; Isa Sheikh-Board; SCUSD Public Comment;
Subject: Re: Why the Parent Participation Preschool?

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.

To the Board members of SCUSD,

I am sad, but even more disgusted by what happened at last nights parent meeting. First to find out by a certified letter that the teacher to my daughters parent participation class was laid off, then 2nd to find out that the district has done NOTHING to assist the program is once again on your chopping block.

Also, I believe that the **Child Development Head -DR. Sue Gilmore- has 100% sabotaged this parent participation program.**

Parents and Teachers worked together for months to try and find the best solution for the program. We provided information to Sue only for her to hand the information right back to us with no direction or guidance. She lied to all of us. Parents and Teachers have asked on many of our nightly meetings and board meetings to apply for aid and apply for grants... her response to why she did not do so... was a laugh. Her response to teachers and parents in the meeting on WHY SHE DID NOT DO WHAT SHE WAS ASKED...a laugh.

HOW DISRESPECTFUL TO THE PARENTS FIGHTING! HOW DISRESPECTFUL TO THE TEACHERS! YOU SHOULD ALL BE ASHAMED of YOURSELVES.

Why did not 1 of the board members tell her that was inappropriate and rude. COWARDS! That is what all of you are to not stick up for the children, aids, and teachers in the SCUSD district.

This is what my year as a first time parent has been like in your district. I doubt you would read this, but here it goes.

February 2020: Parents found out with very little notice that the parent participation program would be on the chopping block to be discontinued. By March 2020 parents of all 7 programs gathered together and started having meetings to figure out the budget for the district. We, the parents and teachers, found ourselves fighting for a program with little or no help from our leaders. We presented them with many different approaches to keep our programs up and running from removing ourselves from the Adult Ed program to our own umbrella underneath the SCUSD to even becoming our own identity becoming a non-profit with our own taxID number. With all of the parents and teachers combined we were able to save the program and were given time to generate a running budget for the next years to come.

Feb 2021: Parents found out that their Parent Participation Program is on the chopping block again in the SCUSD.

Parents were given ONLY 24 hours till noon on 2/18/2021 to write and express how important our school is for our children.

I feel that each member of the board has been through a school program for their children and they have had great memories of their child's program.

I feel that each one of you should know deep down in your core that Early Education is so very important not only for the child but for the parent.

I feel that the SCUSD is failing our students.

I feel that the SCUSD is failing our families.

I feel that we are being dismissed again for the departments failing of their budget not ours.

I do not feel this is the parents fault or the teachers fault, but SCUSD fault for not being able to budget correctly.

I can tell you all of the benefits of early education for lower income families, but SCUSD will or will not listen.

I can tell you all of the wonderful things educators are doing in the time of pandemic, but SCUSD seems not to care because 1 year later nothing has been done.

I can tell you how frustrated I am as a SCUSD parent, and my child has not even stepped into a classroom in over a year. I can tell you that if in a month parents find out that you cut another program so staff members can take business classes or that you cut a program so the superintendent can have another pay increase...Cowards.

I am frustrated that the district is thinking so little of such a HUGE program that has touched so many of your city's families. I am frustrated that only 1 year later... we are asked to plead and fight for our program which we pay for out of pocket to stay. We are constantly struggling and yet we are still fighting for this program.

"Vote to continue the program, as you've done many times, and vow to make it a permanent component of any education in the SCUSD. Do the hard work, find a way to fund now, make a path to fund it always." - Mark Warmack "Mr. Anita"

On Thu, Feb 18, 2021 at 11:20 AM Naomi Vilorio <

_____ wrote:

Good morning,

I am a Sacramento resident, wife and mother. Last year as a 1st time parent in the SCUSD I was excited to start this educational journey with my first born. I quickly found out how unorganized the SCUSD was within a few months in the district. I found that finding a program with the same small town feel -everyone knows everyone- is really hard to find. After months of looking into state programs and private programs I started to become very discouraged. The classes were overcrowded. Teachers seemed irritated, and drained. Students looked more like farm animals stuffed into rooms with little or no interaction/no direction.

I knew there must be a small program here in Sacramento. I knew there must be a morning time program. I had the opportunity to work at a program called Miss Betsy's, but she retired out. The church decided to make a profit off of their community by raising their prices, by becoming a religious day care drop off center... instead of keeping a local program for the neighborhood. I knew a parent participation class was in West Sac, but why not in Sacramento? I called Child Action and they were able to help me find Mrs Tamara with Tahoe. That is when everything changed for my daughter. This program is more than just that -a program. I entered this program with an open heart knowing that I would be giving my daughter the best hometown local school where she would not get lost in the system. The best part of the program is the tool bag - decades of education and knowledge - that would be offered to parents. This was a community that supplied children with a great educational program and supplied parents with an outlet of information towards how to benefit your family and children at home. It was wonderful... until February of 2020.

February 2020: Parents found out with very little notice that the parent participation program would be on the chopping block to be discontinued. By March 2020 parents of all 7 programs gathered together and started having meetings to figure out the budget for the district. We, the parents and

teachers, found ourselves fighting for a program with little or no help from our leaders. We presented them with many different approaches to keep our programs up and running from removing ourselves from the Adult Ed program to our own umbrella underneath the SCUSD to even becoming our own identity becoming a non-profit with our own taxID number. With all of the parents and teachers combined we were able to save the program and were given time to generate a running budget for the next years to come.

What is sad...or what I am most upset about is that Jorge Aguilar who has a salary of \$415,000 in February of 2020 accepted a \$35,000 pay raise in March 2020, which he also received a 2nd income/salary from UCMerced, decided to cut programs in the Sacramento School district.

This raise or pay increase could have been used to save a program, used to help teachers who were let go because of covid layoffs, or used to help low income families provide insulin to their loved ones...this \$35,000.00 could have been used in a time of pandemic for good...NOT for someone who is receiving 2 salaries.

Now with that being said... fast forward a year later.

February 2021.

24 hours ago Parents found out that their Parent Participation Program is on the chopping block again in the SCUSD.

We were given 24 hours till noon today 2/18/2021 to write and express how important our school is for our children.

I feel that each member of the board has been through a school program for their children and they have had great memories of their child's program.

I feel that each one of you should know deep down in your core that Early Education is so very important not only for the child but for the parent.

I feel that the SCUSD is failing our students.

I feel that the SCUSD is failing our families. I feel that we are being dismissed again for the departments failing of their budget not ours. I do not feel this is the parents fault, teachers fault, but SCUSD fault for not being able to budget correctly.

I can tell you all of the benefits of early education for lower income families, but SCUSD will or will not listen. I can tell you all of the wonderful things educators are doing in the time of pandemic, but SCUSD seems not to care because 1 year later nothing has been done. I can tell you how frustrated I am as a SCUSD parent, and my child has not even stepped into a classroom in over a year. I can tell you that if in a month parents find out that you cut another program so staff members can take business classes or that you cut a program so the superintendent can have another pay increase...Parents will be upset.

I am frustrated that the district is thinking so little of such a HUGE program that has touched so many of your city's families. I am frustrated that only 1 year later with less than 24 hours we are asked to plead and fight for our program which we pay for out of pocket to stay. We are constantly struggling and yet we are still fighting for this program.

"Vote to continue the program, as you've done many times, and vow to make it a permanent component of any education in the SCUSD. Do the hard work, find a way to fund now, make a path to fund it always." - Mark Warmack "Mr. Anita"

Please do not allow this program to be terminated. This is a need in our local community and it would be a devastating loss of opportunity to our children.

Thank you,
A Sacramento Resident, Tahoe Parent Participation Parent,
Naomi Vilorio



DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

COURT REPORTERS BOARD

OF CALIFORNIA

8.0

March 17, 2021

SCUSD Board of Education
(via email)

Dear President Pritchett and Board Members:

I am writing in support of the continuation of a very important vocational training program offered through the Charles A. Jones Career and Education Center (CAJ). Since 1964, a court reporting training program has been offered as a lucrative, meaningful career path to students who are either unable or uninterested in a formal college education. I am an alumna of the Argonaut Court Reporting Program and can personally attest to the quality of the education offered by the program.

In my current position as the executive officer of the Court Reporters Board of California, the regulatory body that oversees and licenses court reporters, I am very familiar with the job outlook for court reporters, and it is a rosy one. While some members of the public see it as a skill that is outdated, the opposite is true. Court reporters are no longer responsible for reporting only judicial proceedings. They now are employed to provide closed captioning television broadcast and instantaneous speech to text translation at movies, theater events, conventions, and classrooms. The demand for this skill is exploding, to put it quite simply.

Court reporting offers an opportunity to young people just graduating from high school as well as mature workers who are looking for a career change. The income is at a level that allows for above average earning capacity. Since many candidates are women and minorities, a career in court reporting is a wonderful opportunity equalizer. The flexibility in the work environment allow many working parents to spend time with their children while at the same time providing for them financially.

As a member of the Advisory Board for the Argonaut/CAJ Career Center program, I have seen firsthand the court reporting program adapt not only to the changes in the industry, but also to the delivery of training during the pandemic. The court reporting industry almost overnight embraced remote reporting of depositions and court proceedings, and Argonaut/CAJ rapidly found ways to continue to offer effective training via distance learning. As courts begin to hear proceedings again, the backlog across the state is astounding, and court reporters will be in demand in each criminal courtroom and most civil courtrooms.

The Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education will be doing a great disservice to Californians across the state by discontinuing the court reporting program at CAJ. Not only will local residents miss out on the ability to train for a lucrative career but will also contribute to a growing shortage of court reporters which endangers the appeal rights of everyone availing themselves of our judicial system. I urge you with the greatest sincerity to support the court reporting program at CAJ.

Thanks for your consideration of this information.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yvonne K Fenner".

YVONNE K. FENNER
Executive Officer

cc: Argonaut Court Reporting at CAJ
file

March 17, 2021

SCUSD Board of Education
(via email)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, MARCH 18, 2021: PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Superintendent Aguilar, School Board President Pritchett, School Board Members, and Student School Board Member,

This is a plea to save the Adult Education **Court Reporting** program at Charles A. Jones Career and Education Center. The Court Reporting program has been in existence since 1964. During this time, many changes have occurred within the profession, and our school's program has been able to adapt and implement new curriculum to consistently produce exemplary stenographic reporters in California. In February 2021, the school board voted to layoff the two teachers of this program, and we are respectfully asking you to rescind those layoffs.

While the Court Reporting program's enrollment is currently low, this is mainly attributable to the school's closure for the last year because of COVID-19. Many of our students are parents who have had to devote their time to their children's online education. Other students have had part-time jobs that were lost in this unprecedented time and/or spouses who have lost their jobs, resulting in the student needing to go to work. Quite a few students prefer in-person instruction and opted to wait for school to reopen before returning.

As schools reopen to in-person instruction and more businesses are able to open, our adult students will also be able to continue with his/her Court Reporting education. It is also a time of continued growth in the Court Reporting profession where more reporters are needed for things beyond court proceedings and depositions. People who can provide Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) are in high demand to assist hard of hearing students. Captioning is required for all new programming on television, as per the FCC requirements. The captions you see on television that are accurate are done through stenographic means rather than artificial intelligence. Wherever there is a need to have the spoken word put into print -- from Congressional hearings, public hearings, plays, sporting events, church services, to meetings and web streaming -- that's where the skills learned in our Court Reporting program are applicable. According to the Court Reporting advisory board members, there are plenty of jobs in all of these areas, jobs which pay very well.

The Sacramento City Unified School District has received an influx of CARES money. Since it is noted to be one-time funding, please consider rescinding the layoff notices for the Court Reporting teachers for the next year 2021/2022 to give us time to increase our enrollment. There are introductory Court Reporting classes being given by Court Reporting associations that are generating interest and inquiries about our Court Reporting program. We have the momentum to rebuild and increase our enrollment through our networking and partnerships with the National Court Reporters Association, California Court Reporters Association, Deposition Reporters Association, Project Steno, and the Court Reporters Board of California.

As you continue to work through the most pressing issues for the K-12 students, please remember Adult Education needs your support too.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Lorri Doll and Bonnie Chufar, Adult Education, Court Reporting Teachers
Charles A. Jones Career and Education Center - Court Reporting
(Formerly known as *Argonaut Court Reporting*)
