

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
June 25, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Rene Phillips
Comment:	<p>Rename Sutter Middle School. Racist symbols are NOT the pride of the city. My siblings and I attended Sutter Middle School. It's location in a predominantly white, East Sacramento neighborhood coupled with the disproportionate underrepresentation of Black and Brown kids perpetuates the racist symbolism of its namesake. As a former student and SCUSD graduate I demand change. Our generation will not stand for this any longer. Start with Sutter and then research each and every school named after an individual including Peter Burnett and Kit Carson. If they have ANY type of racist, oppressive or questionable history, intentionally strip their names from public view. Our community and children deserve better. Equity is in our actions, not just our mission and vision statements.</p> <p>Simply put, in the mid 19th century, John Sutter enslaved thousands of Natives to build and maintain his ranching and farming industries right here in Sacramento. Sutter kidnapped, starved and kept Native people to work his lands, no different than what the White people were doing to Black people in the southern states. The Sutter Family is not to be celebrated or honored for its racist, oppressive actions. School children should not learn that his actions were honorable.</p> <p>Rename Sutter now.</p>

Speaking as: Former student/SCUSD graduate

Date/time Stamp: 6/23/2020 7:17:17 AM

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Name:	Emily Mizokami
Comment:	I am requesting that the board form a Community Advisory Committee to address the issue of renaming Sutter Middle School. I have collected over 1000 signatures in support of renaming the school. I would be happy to serve on this committee. I have also raised nearly 500 dollars to help pay for new signage and uniforms. Thank you.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 6/24/2020 2:43:38 PM

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Name:	Hallie Burrows
Comment:	I would like to request that the board form a community advisory committee in order to rename Sutter Middle School. It is significant to the community to have a school that gets a lot of focus to carry a name that accurately represents community values. Thank you.

Speaking as: Community Member

Date/time Stamp: 6/24/2020 3:05:03 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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June 25, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jennifer Stoddard
Comment:	Rename Sutter Middle School

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 6/24/2020 5:57:23 PM

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Name:	Audrey Robbins
Comment:	A community advisory committee needs to be formed to rename Sutter Middle School. The name is a glaring lesion on our district, and is frankly embarrassing.

Speaking as: Student

Date/time Stamp: 6/24/2020 5:50:33 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Kora Spiak
Comment:	<p>John Sutter was a colonizer. He settled on Miwok land. To keep a school named after him carries weight. The school board can no longer claim they were “unaware of his actions” if we are now giving you the facts of the dark history he created. If the district refuses to rename, it says that they are willing to keep revering a man who committed crimes against native peoples and the land that belongs to them. To rename is to say that the district isn’t forgetting history, as you can remember with commemorating, but that SCUSD stands with native communities and is willing to make visible change in reversing the colonial and racist society that John Sutter created and that is still being perpetuated. I stand with Emily Mizokami in renaming Sutter Middle School, and I implore SCUSD to do the same.</p>

Speaking as: Past student of SCUSD

Date/time Stamp: 6/24/2020 7:56:27 PM

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Name:	Kora Spiak
Comment:	<p>John Sutter was a colonizer. He settled on Miwok land. To keep a school named after him carries weight. The school board can no longer claim they were “unaware of his actions” if we are now giving you the facts of the dark history he created. If the district refuses to rename, it says that they are willing to keep revering a man who committed crimes against native peoples and the land that belongs to them. To rename is to say that the district isn’t forgetting history, as you can remember with commemorating, but that SCUSD stands with native communities and is willing to make visible change in reversing the colonial and racist society that John Sutter created and that is still being perpetuated. I stand with Emily Mizokami in renaming Sutter Middle School, and I implore SCUSD to do the same.</p>

Speaking as: Past student of SCUSD

Date/time Stamp: 6/25/2020 12:52:39 AM

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Name:	Mo Kashmiri
Comment:	<p>Both parents and students at Sutter Middle School started petitions to change the name of Sutter Middle School. One of those petitions already has over 1,000 signatures on it. https://www.change.org/p/rename-sutter-middle-school-in-sacramento-ca As one of many steps that the District should take to become an anti-racist District, I urge that a committee be formed to change the name of Sutter Middle School.</p> <p>Unfortunately, Sutter was a racist colonizer who prospered on the backs of enslaved indigenous people of California. It is shameful that our children are expected to express pride in association with a man who terrorized so many. The statue is gone, and it is time for us to embrace a more positive name for this school.</p> <p>There are so many community role models who do good work, that could be honored by the renaming of this school. We know there would be costs to change the name, which is why Sutter parent Emily Mizokami has started a GoFundMe, and we are actively soliciting donations to minimize any costs to the Districts.</p> <p>SCUSD Board - The next step is for you to form the community committee to make this change happen. It's time for us to rename Sutter Middle School. I look forward to your support.</p> <p>Mo Kashmiri</p> <p>Parent of a child at William Land Elementary</p> <p>438 T St Sacramento, CA 95811</p> <p>559-260-8988 cell</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 6/25/2020 11:56:16 AM