

## Sacramento

	<p>to attend the SDC program at Ethel Phillips is not giving these students the appropriate access to the least restrictive education path. This could be construed as a violation of IDEA. I am requesting, for the good of these students, to not close the SDC program at Ethel Phillips Elementary School.</p>
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Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:

JLT

School:

they are adults who lack the skills they should have received earlier.

If anything, the district needs to invest *more* heavily into early intervention SDCs ó especially classes for kids with language and social difficulties, and not simply push the children who need a separate quieter

Sacramento City Unified School District  
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**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:

Renee Platina

School:

William Land Elementary

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

**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Sylvia Reyes
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0

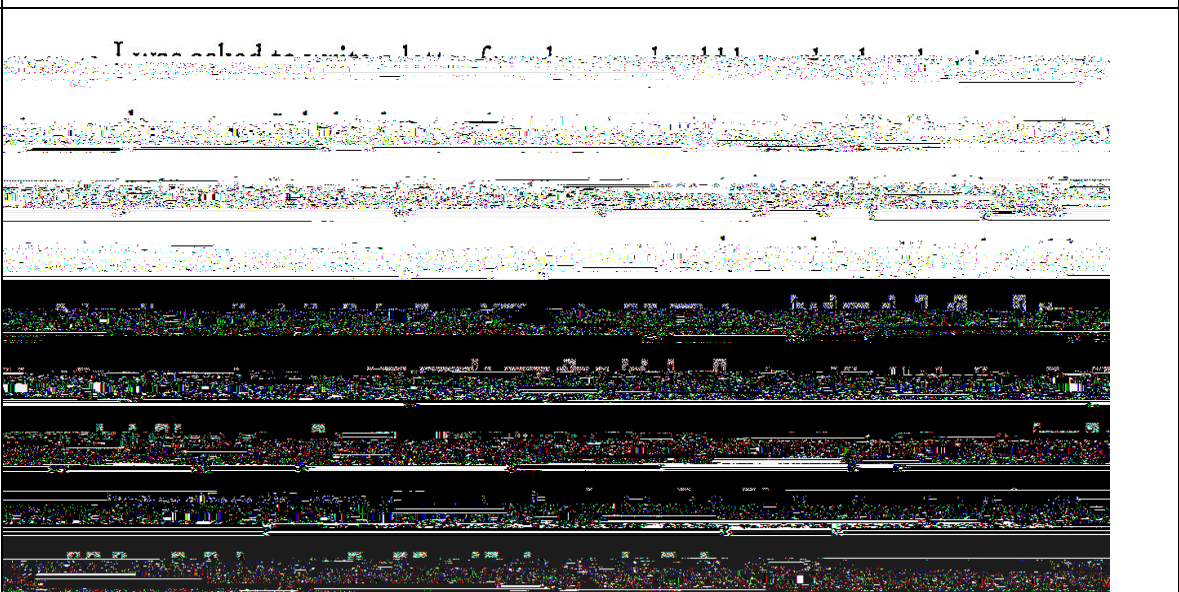
Comment: I am writing a letter in support of keeping the SDC at SCUSD elementary schools. I have seen that this

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**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Susan Forster
School:	Theodore Judah Elementary School
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Dear SCUSD Board,</p> <p>My intent for this email is to show support for keeping the SDC classes open at Theodore Judah Elementary School.</p> <p>I have worked there as a classroom aide with Mrs. Wilson on and off for many years now. She is a very dedicated teacher to each of her students. The students receive the structure and academics that they need there, and are calm and eager to learn as a result. Theodore Judah is an excellent and supportive school for SDC classes.</p> <p>I have often used Mrs. Wilson's teaching style as an example when making observations and suggestions to teachers at other schools. I have observed unstructured environments in SDC classes at other schools that the students from Theodore Judah would not be able to adjust to after the routine of Mrs. Wilson's class. Theodore Judah is the best environment for them, with their wonderful science, music, and art exposure and school community support.</p> <p>Mrs. Wilson takes extraordinary pride in her students and the progress they make throughout each year, not only in academics but also growing as well-rounded kids overall. I have witnessed first-hand her students' increase in self-esteem and confidence. This class is run with dedication and nurtured with care and pride.</p> <p>I would send 100 emails if it meant you would keep the SDC classes at Theodore Judah Elementary. Please do not shut the door on Rooms 15 and 16! They deserve to stay where they know and where they thrive.</p>

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments

Name:	Alex Reyes
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	

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

**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Marilyn K. Prosser, Ph.D.
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0

Comment: To Whom This Concerns:

It has come to my attention that the administration and Board of Education of the Sacramento City Unified School District are considering closing the elementary mild-to-moderate SDC classes at various schools in the District. As the adoptive mother of a student formerly in the SDE-LE class of Kristin Wilson with grades 4, 5, and 6, I am writing to beg you to reconsider the closure of these classes.

I am the adoptive mother of a young man who is Yaqui and Mexican-American and now 16 years of age and enrolled as a Sophomore at George Washington Carver High School of Arts and Science.

My son (whose name I will not use out of respect for his privacy) was a student in Mrs. Wilson's SDE-LE class, having enrolled there as a fourth grader who then graduated as a sixth grader. In addition, as a freshman in high school, my son returned to Mrs. Wilson's class to assist her and the children. He worked with the children on their lessons, under the guidance of Mrs. Wilson, for all of his freshman year.

My son was adopted by me when he was in the first grade. He was diagnosed with PTSD, Auditory Processing Disorder, and Anxiety Disorder. He had had exceptional difficulty in his first three years of school. Before he entered the fourth grade, it was recommended that he be enrolled in Mrs. Wilson's SDE-LE class at Theodore Judah Elementary School because of the excellent track record of both Mrs. Wilson and the class in helping children such as my son succeed and develop the special gifts that they each have.



Native American heritage when he was invited on several occasions to dance in the presence of his classmates and teachers. My son became a charming, happy young man who now, as a Sophomore in high school, is maintaining a solid "C" average in required courses. I would never have thought this possible except through the work of Mrs. Wilson and her team.

To close this amazing classroom would be a tragedy. It would eliminate the future of many children in situations with learning differences just like my son's. I recognize the challenges that the District faces. However, I believe that there must be other solutions to some of those challenges than closing the SDE-LE classrooms. If some are of the opinion that there are better options for working with children with learning differences, I suggest that they have not seen the wonderful results that occur when a dedicated SDE-LE teacher and team work with them. I fear that closure of these classrooms will have a negative impact not only on the children themselves but the families of the children who would be affected. Ours was a community in Mrs. Wilson's classroom at Theodore Judah; we worked together in the best interests of our children and the results were amazing.

I do have a video of my son's presentation at his promotion if it could be seen with my son's privacy in mind. I believe that video speaks volumes about the work of Mrs. Wilson's and other SDE-LE classrooms. For all of these reasons, I beg you to reconsider your decision to close these classrooms and thus deny children like my son the opportunities to grow and thrive to which they have every right.

**Sacramento City Unified School District  
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**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Jeremy Hartley and Aiko Hayashi
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0

Comment: Dear SCUSD Board Members,

I wanted to share a letter I sent yesterday to Superintendent Aguilar and other officials regarding  
 As you will see, we are particularly passionate about this program as passionate as we are about  
 shielding our family from potential sources of COVID infection. But to be honest, our personal  
 reasons for preferring online education are less important than the fact that it is working so well for  
 so many other families. Classes are full. And kids are thriving.

I also wanted to let you know that our correspondence with the superintendent is just the first step  
 and sharing with the SCTA. Our hope is that we can persuade you and other sc1(oo2 257.33 440.5 2



**Sacramento City Unified School District  
Board of Education Meeting  
June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Katie Valenzuela, Sacramento City Councilmember, District 4
School:	JFK
Agenda Item #	7.0

Comment:

SCUSD. I hope we can count on you to ensure this critical work happens as soon as possible.

Sincerely:

Katie Valenzuela

Sacramento City Councilmember, District 4

Sacramento City Unified School District  
Board of Education Meeting

June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments

Name:	Chairman Jesus Tarango, Wilton Rancheria
School:	JFK
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Dear President Rhodes and SCUSD Board Members,</p> <p>On behalf of Wilton Rancheria, I respectfully submit the following letter concerning the proposed changes to the SCUSD Board of Education. I am concerned that these changes threaten to completely erode the community's voice in the decision-making process. I am also concerned that these changes will result in a loss of transparency and accountability. I am also concerned that these changes will result in a loss of trust in the SCUSD Board of Education. I am also concerned that these changes will result in a loss of respect for the community's input. I am also concerned that these changes will result in a loss of respect for the community's input.</p>

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

**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Rosalinda Mancillas
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School: JFK

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**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:



Sacramento City Unified School District  
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**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Native sisters circle
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Hello, I hope this email finds you well</p> <p>To begin with, the braid for our boys is an important symbol of identity and tradition in native culture, and it is worn as a sign of respect for one's ancestry and heritage. For our young boys, wearing a braid can also represent a rite of passage into manhood and serve as a reminder to honor their family and community. The braid can signify one's connection to the natural world and to the spiritual realm, two concepts that are deeply rooted in our Native traditions. Whether it is one braid or multiple, the braid holds great significance for our Native people and is a powerful symbol of this culture and history.</p> <p>Vq"öewö"j ku'j ck'y qwf "dg'utkr r kpi "c'r tkf g'qh'c"{qwpi "o cp."cpf "j cv'ku'etwgn'cpf " unnecessary, our boys deserve more respect and recognition for why they grow there hair long, your staff NEED more cultural competence so our young native kids in YOUR district feel safe. It is a big problem if we ask them and they say they do not feel safe, so you guys need to do better.</p> <p>Blessings,</p> <p>Native sisters circle</p>

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**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Sarah-Michael Gaston
School:	JFK
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	<p>Hi,</p> <p>This is a public comment for the school board meeting tonight June 8th.</p> <p>A Native American student was assaulted by having his braid pulled at Kennedy High School on March 26th. The teacher also threatened to cut off his braid. This kind of ignorance cannot be tolerated. It sounds as though the teacher knew that hair is important and sacred to Native people and wanted to punish and scare the student by saying they would cut their hair. How atrocious! This should have never happened and the school board needs to do more than just apologize for this violence. This district needs to make concrete policy changes to ensure the protection of Native American students. You need to do the following: require Native American cultural humility training for staff and faculty, fully fund and supplement the Title VI programs, and reach out to the Native American community for consultation. How do we ensure Native American student success when incidents like this are allowed to happen? Violent acts like these from teachers like this do a disservice to our great teachers who respect, create belonging, and provide quality education for Native students and all students and should not go undisciplined and held unaccountable. Native American students are some of our most ignored and invisibilized students. By not addressing this correctly, you are further telling Native students that they don't belong or matter. That they won't be protected from harm. That is not okay and you must remedy this incident better.</p> <p>Thank you, Sarah-Michael</p>

**Sacramento City Unified School District  
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**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Victoria Bondartchouk
School:	Albert Einstein Middle School
Agenda Item #	7.0

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter on behalf of Bogdan Sagun, student of Albert Einstein Middle School and his father Gennadiy Sagun. I knew this family since 2008. Bogdan has well controlled mental disorder. He learned to be a positive and active family member and how to behave in our community. He understands his chores and loves to be helpful. I understand that school and district be responsible to provide professional services to Bogdan. His learning opportunities and life success are depending on practical steps of working together with positive communication and active involvement in the IEP process.

On May 24th I participated in a conversation between Principal Chase Tafoya and father of Bogdan, Gennadiy Sagun. I remark an important fact that Bogdan never had any problems on school-bus, but just because substituted driver, who believed in this rumor and refused to serve Bogdan. Based on rumors Principal suspended Bogdan Sagun from school transportation services for three days on same day after services were denied. I asked Principal for any written objective statements or reports on Bogdan behavior that can cleared out the reason for suspension. For whole semester father received only one in-class incident report of May 8th. On short conversation I evaluated the situation and named this a rumor and wheelchair for child who can not walk without, or take away glasses from child who how his world looks without iPad? May they explain how those inappropriate actions



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**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Gennadiy Sagun
School:	Albert Einstein Middle School

Agenda

provide services? Why transportation department told me that she scares to provide services to Bogdan?

What I understand, that school staff shared with new bus driver a very negative information about Bogdan, and after all she was scared to provide any services to Bogdan. This case needs immediate investigation because school staff must be responsible for sharing rumors. And I as a father receive false statements on how my child was suspended from transportation services. If a child cannot speak and explain himself, this does not give a reason for the teacher's assistants to make him a sexual predator and in all his actions, the child cannot even scratch himself because they will say he wanted to do this and that, I see that the problem is not in the child, but in the teachers who see sexual connotations in everything, their statements he wanted to do this and that. but he didn't. Don't make my child a sexual predator. This is absolutely unprofessional. Absolutely not acceptable. Especially for stuff who works with special needs kids.

Principal of school informed me that Bogdan was suspended from transportation rumors?

For WHAT???? But transportation department never made any complaint on Bogdan behavior on school bus. And family was not informed about suspension before May 24th.

I feel not safe for Bogdan attend his school before the conflict will be justly resolved. If staff did not have any incidents report on school-bus before May 24th, but provoked aggressive behavior in the classroom two weeks ago and then spread the rumors to all other departments to refuse services then urge suspension they have to realize how child and his family feel about their fabrication of case against child with special needs.

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

**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Alina Cervantes
School:	Sutter Middle and Phoebe Hearst
Agenda Item #	7.0

**Comment:** I urge the district to create a policy that bans cell phones in our classrooms. At Sutter Middle phone use in class is rampant and the administrators are either clueless to the reality that cell phones are to the learning environment, even for kids without phones. I think there are grounds for a class action lawsuit if the schools have a policy but it is clearly not enforced. There is mounting evidence to support a cell phone ban, at least inside classrooms. It is your job to prioritize a safe learning environment at school. Phoebe Hearst has a phone ban and it is enforced so we know it is possible when teachers and administrators care enough. Sutter is a free for all and phones are used to cheat, cyber bully, sexually harass, and threaten violence. Just this week a student has been sending messages during the school day threatening to shoot up the school. We know it will not stop those things from happening, but research shows it will cut down on it. My daughter has been filmed at school in class and at lunch without my consent and posted to public websites. This is illegal. There are also kids who for safety reasons should not be identified or filmed. I urge the board to read the following article and consider tackling this important issue. Phone use is a barrier to student success. Otherwise we can fundraise.

Thank you for considering this matter,

Alina Cervantes - SCUSD elementary and middle school parent

Here is the article (you can find online for the missing images)

This post is cross-posted at The Atlantic (here), with one section cut: the section urging the district to create a policy that bans cell phones in our classrooms. This post is too long to fit into an email from Substack. If you got this by email, please

disorders, including increasing rates of self-harm; girls were particularly vulnerable. I was told that the mental- health problems were already baked in when students arrived for ninth grade. Coming out of middle school, many students were already anxious and depressed. Many were also already addicted to their phones.

Ten months later, I was invited to give a talk at Scarsdale Middle School. There, too, I met with the principal and her top administrators, and I heard the same thing: Mental- health problems had recently gotten much worse. Even when students arrived for sixth grade, coming out of elementary school, many of them were already anxious and depressed. And many, already, were addicted to their phones.

Vq'yj g'vgcej gtu'cpf 'cf o kpkutcvqtu'Kur qng'y kj . 'vj ku'y cupo'o gtgn{ 'c'eqkpekf gpeg0Vj g{ " saw clear links between rising phone addiction and declining mental health, to say nothing of declining academic performance. A common theme in my conversations with them was: We all hate the phones. Keeping students off of them during class was a constant struggle. I gwkpi "uwf gpvuo'cwgpvqp'y cu'j ctf gt'dgecwug'yj g{ 'uggo gf 'r gto cpgpvn{ 'f kntcevgf "cpf " congenitally distractible. Drama, conflict, bullying, and scandal played out continually during the school day on platforms to which the staff had no access. I asked why they eqwf pø'lwv'dcp'r j qpgu'f wtkpi 'uej qqn'j qwtu0Vj g{ 'uckf "vq'o cp{ 'r ctgpvu'y qwf "dg'wv ugv' if they could not reach their children during the school day.

A lot has changed since 2019. The case for phone-free schools is much stronger now. As Zach Rausch and I have documented here at the After Babel Substack, evidence of an international epidemic of mental illness, which started around 2012, has continued to accumulate. So, too, has evidence that it was caused in part by social media and the sudden move to smartphones in the early 2010s. Many parents now see the addiction and distraction these devices cause in their own children; most of us have heard harrowing stories of self-j cto kpi "dgj cxlqt'cpf "uwkfk g'cwgo r w'co qpi "qwt'htkpf uø'ej kf tgp0Vy q" weeks ago, the United States Surgeon General issued an advisory warning that social o gf lc'ecp'ectt{ "öc'r tqhqwpf 'tkun'qh'j cto "vq'yj g'o gpvnl'j gcmj "cpf 'y gm-being of children cpf "cf qrguegpvuo

We now also have more precedents: many more examples of schools that have gone entirely phone-free during the school day. So the time is right for parents and educators to ask: Should we make the school day phone-free? Would that reduce rates of depression, anxiety, and self-harm? Would it improve educational outcomes? I believe that the answer to all of these questions is yes.

### What Phones Do to Kids in School

Think about how hard it is for you to stay on task and sustain a train of thought while working on your computer. Email, texts, and alerts of all kinds continually present you y kj 'qr r qtwpkkgu'v'f q'uqo gj kpi "gculgt'cpf 'o qtg'hwp'yj cp'y j cv"{ qwt'g'f qkpi 'pqy 0K{ 'qw are over age 25, you have a fully mature frontal cortex to help you resist temptation and maintain focus, and yet you probably still have difficulties doing so. Now imagine a phone kp'c'ej kf ø'r qengv.'dw | kpi "gxgt{ 'hgy 'o kpwgu'y kj 'cp'kpkcvkqp'v'f q'uqo gj kpi "qyj gt"



get lower grades.

You might be thinking that these are correlational findings; maybe the smarter students are just better able to resist temptation? Perhaps, but experiments using random assignment likewise show that using or just seeing a phone or receiving an alert causes students to underperform.

Participants in the study came into a lab and took tests that are commonly used to measure memory capacity and intelligence. They were randomly assigned to one of three groups, given the following instructions: (1) Put your phone on your desk, (2) leave it in your pocket or bag, or (3) leave it out in another room. None of these conditions involve active phone use — just the potential distraction of knowing your phone is there, with texts and social-media posts waiting. The results were clear: The closer the phone was to the student, the lower their performance on the tests. The results were clear: The closer the phone was to the student, the lower their performance on the tests. The results were clear: The closer the phone was to the student, the lower their performance on the tests.

The problem is not just transient distraction, though any distraction in the classroom will impede learning. Heavy phone or social-media use may also have a cumulative, enduring, negative effect on learning. Heavy phone or social-media use may also have a cumulative, enduring, negative effect on learning. Heavy phone or social-media use may also have a cumulative, enduring, negative effect on learning.



Level 3: Phone caddies in classrooms: Students put their phones into a wall pocket or storage unit at the start of each class, and then pick them up at the end of that class. These three levels seem to be the ones most commonly employed by American schools today. I believe that the first two are nearly useless. Many students do not have the impulse control to stop themselves from checking their phone during class time if the phone is within reach. One teacher at Scarsdale High School told me that even when a ban on using phones during class is enforced, some students will say that they need to use the bathroom in order to check their phones.

Phone caddies are a little better for learning, because the 440.5 689t the phone ou uwf gpwãr'qengv.'dw'vj gk "ghge'qp'uej qqr'uqekr'kg'o c{ 'dg'y qtug<C'hngn{ 'tguwv'qh'vj g" practice could be that all times between classes will be dominated blocking down ~~side~~lyones, getting the fix the 440.5 689were denied for 50 3( mi)-3(nutes dur)4(i)-11(ng)1

with a magnetic pin (like the anti-theft tags used in clothing stores). Students keep the pouch with them but cannot unlock it until the end of the 5( sc)3(hool da)-17(y)20(, wh)-7(e access to a magnetic unlocking device.

Level 5: Phone lockers. Students lock their phones into a secure unit with many small compartments whe 3(n the)-17(y)10( a)4(rr)6(ive )-7(a)4(t school. The)-15(.5 689k)JTJETQ lockers again only when the 440.5 689leave school.

Both of the 3(se)3( p)-9(ra)7(c)4(ti)-3(c)-5(e)4(s p)-10(ut an)-7(y)20( student se)-7(e)4(n us -free schools. The are the policies most likely to produce substantial educational, socia 3(l, )-11(a)4(-nd)159)me benefits, because the 4140.5 689re the onp approaches that give stude 3(nts s)-3(ix)-11( or se)6(

and9use their phones whenever the 414(y)20( thi)-3(nk no a)4(dult)-13( is wa)3(tching)10(.

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marginal benefit of a phone-based lesson outweighs the costs of a phone-focused student body.

A more common argument comes from parents, many of whom are afraid that something might go wrong at school, and want to ensure that they can reach their children at all times.

These fears are understandable.

You can find a list of dumb phones and watches here, at the website for Wait Until 8th.  
Vj cws a group that helps parents in each school come together and sign a pledge that they  
y kn'pqv'i kxg'yj gk'ej kf "c'uo ctr j qpg'wpki: y 'i tcf g0Kutqpi n' 'uxr r qt'v'y g'qti cpk' c'kppø'  
central idea: to help parents work together so that their children will not dg'yj g'öqpn' "qpgö"



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

**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Alma Garcia
School:	McClatchy HS and California Middle
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Yo apoyo la propuesta de inversión en maestros sustitutos calificados. Que estén bien capacitados pero también me gustaría que verifiquen las necesidades de personal en general en nuestras escuelas. Personal capacitado y con buena actitud. Muchas gracias.





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

**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Jay Franco
School:	Hiram Johnson HS
Agenda Item #	9.4

Comment: Dear School District Officials,

I am writing to support the demands that you take immediate action to change the names of schools within your district that are named after oppressive & racist colonizers. Specifically, I am referring to schools that are named after John Sutter, Kit Carson, and

Sacramento City Unified



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

**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	M. Edache
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	9.4
Comment:	<p>Individuals may choose not to attend one of the identified schools because of the history it holds. Often people are quick to say, 'It was so long ago. Why does it matter?' The truth is naming a school state a legacy. Continuing to keep schools and monuments with names of identified racists sends a clear message of what and who are valued.</p>

Sacramento City Unified School



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**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Scottie Smith
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	9.4
Comment:	<p>I write to address the need for parents/community and students now and future generations to have schools named after people that reflect positive images of who they are and aspire to become. To do so, creates a learning environment that is welcoming and offers a direction on where education should go in order to remedy racism and to help eliminate racist stereotype in education and in the larger communities.</p>





Sacramento City Unified School District  
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**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	Quetzal Cornejo Molina
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	9.4
Comment:	<p> <del>like I asked my parents, why we name our schools after certain people. When I was 10 I assumed we named them after scholars and educators - people that tangibly helped improve the lives of those around them. And yet even today we still have schools named after colonizers; White men who engaged in genocide, land theft and sexual abuse in a bid for white supremacy. We like to believe we do not name schools after people with news coverage and honorifics, but as long as folks such as John Sbut</del> </p> <p>             like I asked my parents, why we name our schools after certain people. When I was 10 I assumed we named them after scholars and educators - people that tangibly helped improve the lives of those around them. And yet even today we still have schools named after colonizers; White men who engaged in genocide, land theft and sexual abuse in a bid for white supremacy. We like to believe we do not name schools after people with news coverage and honorifics, but as long as folks such as John Sbut         </p>

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

**June 8, 2023 Written Public Comments**

Name:	June Robbins
School:	Sutter Middle School
Agenda Item #	9.4
Comment:	As a former student of the SCUSD and of Sutter Middle School, I commend the efforts to change the names of the schools named after people that Sacramento should not be proud of.