

Board Meeting 05/22/2025

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Name:

Eudora Payson

Affiliation (e.g., parent, staff, community member, or school site):

parent

Please specify the agenda item or general topic you are commenting on.

El Camino High Schools dance program

Your Comment:

I am petitioning to keep El Camino High School's dance program. This program gives opportunities to kids to grow in dance based on their skill levels and grow and mature in this art as something they love to do in life.

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Name:

Janice Calilong

Affiliation (e.g., parent, staff, community member, or school site):

Parent

Please specify the agenda item or general topic you are commenting on.

El Camino Dance Program

Your Comment:

I support El Camino Dance Program, two of my kids were in the program . Please do not removed PE credits and don't combine multiple levels in one class. Thank you.

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Name:

Amanda Worley

Affiliation (e.g., parent, staff, community member, or school site):

Parent and El Camino Alum

Please specify the agenda item or general topic you are commenting on.

El Camino Dance Program

Your Comment:

Keeping El Camino dance program is very important. This program helps build confidence in kids and to explore their individuality. Taking away the PE credit does not make any sense. All that should matter is that kids are exercising and enjoying it. I went to El Camino and had to take PE and dance and I can tell you personally I did not retain anything I learned in PE but I continued to dance after high school college and beyond and it makes me so proud my daughter got to experience dance and work her way up through the years. If El Camino takes this away I will strongly consider enrolling my other daughter in a different school. Even if she takes dance or not. This program has been apart of El Camino since the early 70's.

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Name:

Kara Gharechedaghy

Affiliation (e.g., parent, staff, community member, or school site):

Parent

Please specify the agenda item or general topic you are commenting on.

ECHS dance program is at risk as the district removed PE credit for dance.

Your Comment:

Please don't PE credit from dance, dance is definitely an exercise and physical exercise activity that deserves credit and please don't force Ms Stevenson to combine multiple levels into one class. Although I believe there should be dance for all, My daughter works hard for the level of dance she is in. Kids shouldn't be placed in a class with just any skill level.

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Name:

Jennifer Mendoza

Affiliation (e.g., parent, staff, community member, or school site):

parent

Please specify the agenda item or general topic you are commenting on.

PE credits for all high school dance classes

Your Comment:

Please keep/reinstate PE credits for all high school dance classes! Mrs. Stevenson at El Camino High School is an accomplished and accredited instructor for dance as well as PE. It would be a disadvantage to our students if her classes are not allowed to give PE credits (as previously approved by The Board and Dr. Moore). The students all thrive from her dance teachings and are able to express themselves in ways they cannot in other areas of their lives. The Arts (performing and visual) all need a chance to flourish and grow within our community. The Arts is only a small part of what adds joy and healing to communities.

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Name:

Jenny Liu

Affiliation (e.g., parent, staff, community member, or school site):

Parent

Please specify the agenda item or general topic you are commenting on.

PE Credit for all dance class level.

Your Comment:

Dance is just as important as gym so why are you not giving PE Credit for all dance level. Dancer tend to exceed academically and socially better than PE class. Gym class does not allow kids up express themselves. There's also bullying in gym as opposed to dance where all kids is welcomed.

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Name:

Rose Chan

Affiliation (e.g., parent, staff, community member, or school site):

Staff, parent

Please specify the agenda item or general topic you are commenting on.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

Your Comment:

Hello, I am currently a paraprofessional in a TK classroom and it has come to my attention that next year this class will no longer have two teacher aides but will still keep the same count of 24 students (which was supposed to go down to 20 with one less aide). Given these changes, I believe we are being set up for failure. We have a younger group of children entering the classroom which potentially means they will need more one on one attention and additional assistance throughout the day. Being in a TK classroom can be very stressful and without the support of an additional aide, I can already predict a very difficult year ahead. Even now, with two aides and 24 students - we have difficult days. Unfortunately, there will be even more difficult days in a classroom with just one aide and 24 three and four year olds (yes, we have an incoming student who is just 3 years old!) We are teachers and cannot do our job properly with an overloaded classroom and lack of support staff.

If the plan is to keep the class size at 24 students, then please keep the TK classroom with two teacher aides. If you do decide to keep just one aide, we would greatly appreciate a smaller class size. We would need a smaller class size in order to succeed. We only want the best for these children and you should too. Thank you.

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Name:

Riki Arroyo

Affiliation (e.g., parent, staff, community member, or school site):

Parent

Please specify the agenda item or general topic you are commenting on.

Reinstating PE credits for dance students

Your Comment:

I am reaching out to the SSFUSD board in regards to allowing our children to receive PE credits for their participation in ECHS' dance program. Some of these kids are in Ms. Stevenson's program for 4 years and have no credits to show for it. Dance provides the kids with more physical and mental exercise than any PE class, not to mention helps build confidence inside and outside of school. Also, most of our kids in the program spend many hours after school perfecting their craft. It is only fair that the students receive credit for their participation, hard work, and commitment just like any other class that involves physical activity. In closing, students in the dance program should be accredited just like other students in other organized sports. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Name:

Charmaine Arroyo

Affiliation (e.g., parent, staff, community member, or school site):

Parent

Please specify the agenda item or general topic you are commenting on.

P.E. credit for the dance classes at ECHS.

Your Comment:

Dear Members of the SSFUSD board,

I am writing to respectfully request that the Board reconsider and reinstate physical education credits for students who are enrolled in the dance classes offered at El Camino High School. Dance is a physically rigorous activity that develops cardiovascular endurance, strength, flexibility, coordination, and overall fitness. Additionally, it promotes discipline, confidence, teamwork, and healthy lifestyle habits, which are at the core of any strong PE program.

In other schools across the state, dance is already recognized as a legitimate alternative to traditional PE because of its comparable physical demands and educational benefits.

Beyond its physical benefits, dance provides a vital outlet for students' mental and emotional well-being. In a time when stress, anxiety, and depression are rising among young people, the opportunity to express themselves through movement, connect with peers, and build confidence in a supportive environment is incredibly valuable.

A large part of this positive impact is due to the exceptional leadership and dedication of ECHS's dance teacher, Ms. Feleciana Stevenson. She goes above and beyond to create an inclusive, motivating environment that challenges students physically while also supporting them emotionally. It is clear Ms. Stevenson is deeply committed to her students' growth both in and out of the dance room, and her influence has made a meaningful difference in many of her students' lives.

Reinstating PE credit for dance students would not only recognize the physical and educational value of the course but also show the district's support for a more INCLUSIVE approach to physical education and holistic student wellness.

I, along with other students and parents, would like to know the necessary steps needed to have these issues/matters on the next school board's agenda hoping to find a solution before the 2025-2026 school year starts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Charmaine A.

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Name:

Charmaine Arroyo

Affiliation (e.g., parent, staff, community member, or school site):

Parent

Please specify the agenda item or general topic you are commenting on.

P.E. credit and combining different levels of dance.

Your Comment:

My apologies. I forgot to mention the topic of combining different levels of dance. In addition to reinstating P.E. credit, I strongly urge the Board to ensure that dance classes are not combined across different skill levels just as we wouldn't combine students from beginner, intermediate and advanced swim. Each level requires a different pace, curriculum, and skill development strategy. Combining the different levels of dance compromises the quality of instruction and student growth for everyone involved.

We respectfully ask the Board to recognize the full value of the dance program physically, mentally, and educationally by restoring PE credit and preserving the integrity of the curriculum through proper level placement.

Once again, I thank you for your time and consideration.

Charmaine A.

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Name:

Helen Rodriguez

Affiliation (e.g., parent, staff, community member, or school site):

Parent

Please specify the agenda item or general topic you are commenting on.

El Camino High School Dance Program

Your Comment:

I'm hearing rumors that the dance program at El Camino High School is at risk to diminish because it does not qualify for PE credits and students are discouraged from taking dance. My daughter is a current freshman at El Camino and has really enjoyed the dance program. She calls her dance classmates her family. I have another child who will be entering El Camino in 2026 and is already excited about the potential about trying out for a APD after seeing how much her sister liked. I'm requesting that you look into why the program has had a reduction in students and what we can do to ensure that the program continues. Thank you!

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Name:

Rosemarie Eliares Donovan

Affiliation (e.g., parent, staff, community member, or school site):

Parent

Please specify the agenda item or general topic you are commenting on.

Removal of PE credit for ECHS Dance Classes

Your Comment:

I am against the suggestion to remove the PE credit for ECHS Dance Classes which are taught by Ms. Stevenson. Ms. Stevenson has required certification to fulfill PE requirements and it's confusing why her dance classes are suggested to remove the PE credit. My daughter has taken dance with Ms. Stevenson the last four years (2021 to 2025). Dance class is considered to be one of the highlights of her time at ECHS. She was able to not only express herself physically, but also creatively with all the various dance forms Ms. Stevenson taught. PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE PE CREDIT FROM THE ECHS DANCE CLASSES. Allow the students of ECHS an avenue to express their creative energy physically with dance, and also fulfilling the PE credit. The Arts programs, such as dance, must continue to be recognized and supported at our public schools. It would be devastating to remove the PE credit from Ms. Stevensons classes and I humbly ask that you do not. Thank you for your time.

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Name:

.....

Affiliation (e.g., parent, staff, community member, or school site):

Staff

.....

Please specify the agenda item or general topic you are commenting on.

TK Class Size Increases and Aide Reduction

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Your Comment:

For this upcoming school year, the district had reduced TK class size from 24 to 20. In doing so, they reduced our current aide support from 2 to 1 putting us at a 1:10 teacher student ratio. Reducing class size to 20 preschool aged students would enhance the program we offer and create an environment more conducive to early childhood learning. Additionally, the 1:10 ratio is the requirement in California when "early enrollment" students are allowed (children born between June 2 and September 1). Unexpectedly last week, the district increased class size back to 24 with only 1 aide. This is an unsafe and unreasonable ratio of 1:12 that does not serve the best educational interests of our youngest learners. For clarification purposes, this means 3.11-year-olds will enter TK in the same classroom as 4-year-olds that will begin turning 5 after September 1. Preschools with the same age ranges that we have attending would rarely, if ever, group all those ages together for learning time.

I implore you to consider safe and prudent classroom conditions for students to thrive and safe working conditions for teachers to adequately meet the needs of their very young students. We must reinstate the 20-student cap for TK in order to abide with safe ratios or the district must retain our second aide to account for the sudden decision to keep our class size at 24.

No amount of experience or expertise will make an unsafe ratio acceptable or reasonable. Please ask the district to rectify this upcoming TK classroom situation.

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