

Board Meeting 11/13/2025

This survey will be turned off at 3:00 PM 11/13/2025, no late entries will be accepted.

 Please Read Before Submitting:

- Submitted comments will be **shared with Trustees prior to the meeting** for their review.
- **Online public comments will not be read aloud during the Board meeting.**
- If you wish to speak during the meeting, you must attend in person and complete a Speaker Card prior to the agenda item being addressed.
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Name:

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

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

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Your Comment:

The math walkthroughs are quite ironic. The math tosas constantly emphasize the importance of conceptual learning, yet their walkthroughs focus primarily on procedural compliance. This approach feels contradictory and suggests a lack of alignment with the curriculum's philosophy.

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PCRC and Consultants
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Your Comment:

I urge the Board to reject the proposed \$21k contract with the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center While the goals of fostering a positive school climate and a "restorative cultural reset" are commendable, this proposal is fiscally irresponsible and overly dependent on costly outside consultants instead of building internal capacity.

The cost is excessive for such a limited engagement. Nearly 40% of the budget;\$8,100;is allocated solely to materials development and travel (36 hours at \$225/hour). This is unjustifiably high for a staff training and conflict resolution project occurring within the same county.

It is deeply concerning that we continue to outsource functions that should be handled internally. There have been so many consultants and so many new "leadership" positions. The District already employs a Restorative Practices Coordinator whose role is to oversee and implement this very work. Additionally, Los Cerritos Elementary and other Title I schools now have Wellness Counselors equipped to address relationship building, emotional regulation, and conflict intervention. Why are we paying external consultants to perform duties already covered by existing staff? This reflects a failure in leadership to leverage available district and site resources.

Moreover, the program's design;six monthly, hour-long trainings during existing staff meetings, diverts valuable time from instructional and operational planning. Staff meeting time is limited and should not be used for short-term, consultant-led initiatives that do not ensure sustainable change. It feels like a band aid rather than a true fix.

Instead of pursuing this costly, short-term approach, the District should focus on strengthening internal systems. The RP Coordinator and WC should be empowered to lead this work, ensuring ongoing, equity-centered support.

Also, where is the data to support the need for this consultant? How is success from this consultant measured? Are the families, students, communities involved as whole? An LC parent came to the October board meeting and emphasized the need to create a safe space... Families are not being heard... Stop hiring consultants to tell us how the community should feel. The voices of the community should be heard

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Name:

Concerned community member

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

Community Member

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

Online Public Comments

Your Comment:

Before considering removing the online public comment option, I urge the Board to consider WHY this change is being proposed. Many community members value this option because it allows those who cannot attend meetings in person due to work, childcare, transportation, or mobility challenges to still participate meaningfully in district discussions. Eliminating this option would silence important voices and create unnecessary barriers to engagement. If recent online comments have been difficult to read or feel disheartening, I hope SSFUSD leadership and the Board sees them not as threats, but as valuable insights into the community's lived experiences, concerns, and hopes for improvement. Constructive criticism is a form of caring it means people still believe things can get better. Instead of shutting down a channel of communication, we should be leaning in and using this feedback to strengthen transparency, rebuild trust, and model the openness we ask of our students and staff. True leadership listens, even when it's uncomfortable. Please keep the online public comment option available it represents equity, accessibility, and a genuine commitment to community voice. I appreciate your consideration.

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Name:

Sandra

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

Community member and parent alumni

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

Public Comments

Your Comment:

Good afternoon Board of Trustees, I want to express my strong support for continuing online public comments. This option has given our community a meaningful way to voice ideas and concerns that might otherwise go unheard. A clear example of its impact was the discussion around allowing P.E. credit options. That topic gained traction because families and community members were able to share their experiences and perspectives through public comments when leadership at the school site failed to do so. Their collective voices helped bring the issue back into focus after it had been set aside, demonstrating how online engagement can drive constructive change. Eliminating this avenue would silence an important part of our community's dialogue and limit opportunities for collaboration between families, staff, and district leadership. Transparency and open communication are essential to trust and keeping the online comment option shows that the Board values listening to all voices, not just those able to attend meetings in person. Thank you!

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Name:

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

SSFUSD Staff

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

Concerns About Consultant Involvement

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Your Comment:

Dear School Board and Cabinet,

I would like to express growing concerns among staff regarding the increasing number of consultants currently working with SSFUSD. Many employees are unclear about the roles or purposes of these consultants, as they often seem to create additional work rather than provide meaningful support. Their presence on sites and in meetings has, unfortunately, led to confusion, stress, and tension among colleagues.

There is a strong sense among staff that our input and expertise are being overlooked. Many employees feel uncertain about their job security and their value within the district. As a result, morale is very low, and several people have expressed that they are actively seeking positions elsewhere because SSFUSD no longer feels like a supportive or positive place to work.

I strongly urge district leadership to review the number and cost of these consultants and evaluate the tangible outcomes of their work. From the perspective of many employees, there have been few—if any—visible improvements that justify these investments.

We want SSFUSD to succeed and to be a district where staff feel heard, valued, and safe. I hope leadership will take these concerns seriously and take steps to restore trust and transparency within our schools.

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Name:

Concerned community member

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

community member

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

Keeping or removing Public Comment

Your Comment:

Governance team, Written comments allow the Board to thoughtfully review community concerns before responding, enabling more measured and informed discussions during meetings. Under the current rules, these comments are not read aloud or addressed in real time so why consider removing them now? You speak of engagement, yet eliminating this option would actually reduce opportunities for community members to have their voices heard. I hope you hear our voices. Thanks you for listening.

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

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

Comments

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Your Comment:

I strongly urge the Board to keep the option for online public comments available. These comments are not read aloud during meetings; rather, they provide a safe avenue for community members who may fear retaliation, cannot attend in person, or have previously raised concerns without resolution. Removing this option would not promote equity it would silence voices that already struggle to be heard.

City councils and other public agencies continue to offer online comments precisely because they bridge the gap between leadership and the community. It is concerning to see our district consider removing a tool that promotes accessibility and inclusion. How does this decision align with our district's stated mission and values of belonging, community, and equity?

Online comments provide the Board and Superintendent with valuable insight not only into concerns, but also into positive feedback and areas where the district can grow. They help leadership maintain a pulse on what's happening across schools and departments. Not everyone has the confidence to speak in person, even if they are able to attend. I would argue that many community members feel intimidated by the in-person process.

The Board has stated that it is open to listening, which is appreciated, and online comments are one concrete way to ensure the community is heard. Eliminating this option sends the message that transparency and community voice are no longer priorities. Keeping online public comments available demonstrates that our district truly values open communication, inclusion, and belonging for all.

Removing this option could be perceived as limiting opportunities for public feedback, where keeping it has a sense of openness, trust, and community engagement.

Thank you for listening.

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

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

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Your Comment:

The main challenge in improving math outcomes is not the curriculum itself, but the need for a fundamental shift in pedagogy. Until instructional practices change, we won't see meaningful improvement.

The reality is that most curricula cover similar content and must align with California math standards; what truly makes the difference is how that content is taught.

Right now, the emphasis on math compliance walk-throughs misses the root issue. It's like chopping off branches while ignoring the diseased roots, nothing will truly change. Real progress depends on supporting teachers in transforming their instructional approaches, not simply monitoring whether procedures are followed.

At the same time, the district math team does not appear to have the skills or capacity to effectively guide teachers through this instructional shift. Their current focus remains on compliance. To ensure success, the team must be able to model strong teaching practices and demonstrate what effective implementation of the curriculum looks like in the classroom.

Teachers have observed both math tosas teach guest lessons, and there appears to be little difference between their instruction and the current state of K-12 math teaching across the district. It may be time to seriously reevaluate what teachers truly need. The tosas talk a lot about instructional shifts, but there's never any relevant action to make it happen.

If there is no plan to meaningfully change practice, the most helpful support the district math team can provide is to allow teachers to focus on their work without unnecessary disruption. Thank you.

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Name:

Jace Marzan

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

Los Cerritos Elementary School

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

Educator Effectiveness Block Grant

Your Comment:

This year, I've had the privilege of attending several major conferences; the ASCA National Conference, the Respect 24/7 Conference, and the California PBIS Conference. I'm also part of the SMCOE Counselor Cohort, where we're learning and actively applying the ASCA National Model to strengthen our district's comprehensive counseling programs. I know some of our other counselors were able to attend CASC as well, and it's inspiring to see more professional learning opportunities appearing on board agendas. Last year, was the first year I went to the CASC conference and it was the very first conference I've been to in my official career. I'm also glad we're able to share our learning in our district counselor meetings/PLC's.

I also want to share how excited I am to see Dr. Cervantes and Dr. Garcia attending the National Center for School Leadership & Counseling (NCSLC) Conference. That's a conference I've personally advocated for over the past few years, and I look forward to learning from their experience and understanding how I can continue to grow as a counselor leader in our district.

Additionally, I've used some of my own personal necessity leave this year to attend personal and professional development opportunities, because I truly believe that investing in my growth not only makes me a more effective counselor, but also a better person. To be an empowered educator, I need to be an empowered human first. I'm grateful the district values professional learning, and I'm proud to contribute to a culture where continuous improvement is encouraged and supported.

I hope we use the grant to continue a lot of these amazing experiences.

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Name:

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

Staff

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

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Your Comment:

I am writing to express my deep concern about the district's decision to eliminate Mr. Keith Irish's position. Since his departure, I've noticed a significant decline in the level of support, responsiveness, and follow-through on initiatives that directly impact our students.

Mr. Irish was a dedicated and effective leader who ensured that important tasks were completed and that the needs of students and staff were met. His professionalism, commitment, and proactive approach made a noticeable difference in the district's operations and in the overall morale of those he worked with.

The absence of his leadership has been felt strongly across the district, and it appears that many of the programs, projects, and daily functions that once ran smoothly have since lost momentum. This change has affected not only staff but, most importantly, the students.

I urge the district to reconsider the structural and staffing changes that led to his departure, and to prioritize restoring the level of accountability, communication, and follow-through that Mr. Irish exemplified. Our students deserve the best possible support, and the district's leadership decisions play a critical role in making that happen.

Thank you for your time and for considering these concerns. I hope you will take this feedback seriously and reflect on how decisions like this affect the people and programs that make SSFUSD strong.

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Name:

Angela

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

Community and Staff

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

E-comments

Your Comment:

Dear Cabinet and Board of Trustees, I respectfully request you to continue offering e-public comments as an option for our community. Even the Superintendents own memo outlines clear benefits to maintaining this platform benefits that directly support equity, accessibility, and belonging.

Online comments allow individuals who cannot attend meetings due to work schedules, family obligations, or transportation barriers to still have their voices heard and included in the public record. This accessibility reflects the very heart of our district's CARE Core Values particularly Community is our Strength and Equity is our North Star. Removing this option would limit participation for many families who already face barriers to engagement. Written comments also provide a sense of comfort and safety for those who may feel intimidated or fearful of retaliation when speaking publicly about sensitive issues. These community members should not have to choose between their personal safety and civic participation.

Keeping an online option actually supports meeting efficiency. It helps manage time and flow, allowing in-person meetings to remain focused while still ensuring that every voice is acknowledged. SSF City Council and some districts in our county including San Mateo-Foster City, Cabrillo Unified (cUSD.info/comments), Woodside District (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1lvjkabU4Lu2CM1MXVe5YCQI-prBtbNMJtI96piCEeGg/viewform?edit_requested=true), continue to offer online written options and multiple offer or virtual/zoom options. Maintaining such accessibility is both possible and effective when approached thoughtfully. While I understand the challenges noted in the memo, I believe those can be addressed through clearer communication, guidelines, and a commitment to listening rather than by removing a platform that has made participation more equitable. Keeping online public comments available shows that SSFUSD values all voices, not just those who can attend in person. Please uphold this practice as a reflection of the inclusive, community-centered district we strive to be.

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

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

Online comments

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Your Comment:

Why? It's ironic that tonight the Board is hearing a presentation about the STOPIT anonymous reporting program that's designed to give students and staff a safe way to report concerns without fear of retaliation while at the same time, the superintendent is bringing a recommendation to eliminate online public comments altogether. These online public comments serve a similar purpose: they give community members a safe avenue to express concerns, share appreciation, and engage with the district when they may not feel comfortable or able to speak in person. Instead of removing this tool, the district should view it as an opportunity for listening, reflection, and improvement just as we do with programs like STOPIT. If the goal is to foster safety, trust, and belonging, why remove one of the few accessible channels for community voice? Perhaps, rather than eliminating online comments, the district could even explore a structured or anonymous way for families, staff, and students to report concerns constructively. President Anthony and Trustees Lam, Richardson, Murray, and Hseh please ask your cabinet team why this recommendation is being brought forward. open communication should not be a obstacle but a foundation of trust. Silencing public input would only create barriers. Please keep online public comments available. Thank you.

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