

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Kenneth Nahigian
School:	Edward Kelley
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	I agree with the Rosemont Community Board of Directors. Edward Kelly School on Bradshaw Blvd is a cultural and historical gem which has served thousands of students, and is one of only two parent-participation schools in the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD). It is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places, and during its 156-year existence has served for numerous ceremonial functions, including reunions, swearing-in ceremonies, and gatherings of all kinds. I strongly urge the school district to preserve this gem. Please <i>do not</i> decommission it. Thank you for hearing me. Kenneth Nahigian Sacramento, CA

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Anthony Martin
School:	Edward Kelley
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	As a parent, Edward Kelley Preschool has meant everything to my family. When my child faced challenges, her teacher advocated for her, helped secure support, and created a learning plan tailored to her needs. Because of that, I've watched my child grow more confident and engaged. Closing this program would be a real loss for families like mine—please keep it open.

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Lezli de Leon
School:	Edward Kelley
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Please keep this wonderful school open! I'm looking to enroll my daughter later this year, and the parent participation aspect this school enables is absolutely fantastic for so many reasons. Additionally, it is in close proximity to so many low-income and middle-class neighborhoods; it's low-cost tuition is such a blessing, especially as gas prices keep getting higher (among everything else).

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Lane Bailey
School:	Edward Kelley
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Please keep Edward Kelley preschool coop open. I was there with my granddaughter (Rita) who is now 12 years old. She had dual citizenship and dual languages in the home. Edward Kelley's school programs helped her achieve learning with confidence. She is now a very successful student and writer.

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Jason Barnaby
School:	Edward Kelley
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Hello , My name is Jason, and I'm part of the Decision Maker Engagement Team at Change.org. You are receiving this email because you or your office are listed as a decision maker on a petition that is trending with constituents. As community attention builds, now is a valuable time to share a response so people have accurate information directly from the officials mentioned. Petition Title: <i>Save Edward Kelley Parent Participation Preschool</i> Current Signature Count: 657 Petition Link: https://change.org/p/save-edward-kelley-parent-participation-preschool Responding is easy: Simply reply to this email with the response you would like shared with constituents. We will post your response on the petition page and email it to current signers so they have the information directly from you or your office. Not sure the best way to respond? Responses often include actions already being taken, clarification on jurisdiction or next steps, or acknowledgment of the concerns raised and how constituents can best connect with your office. You can also share any resources, newsletters, or links you want passed along. Thank you, Jason and the Civic Engagement Team

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Jason Barnaby
School:	Edward Kelley
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Hello , It's Jason again. I recently reached out seeking resources or a comment on a petition where you or your office were identified as one of the public officials who can make change happen: https://change.org/p/save-edward-kelley-parent-participation-preschool Petition Summary: The petition seeks to prevent the closure of the Edward Kelley Parent Participation Preschool, a historic institution in Sacramento County that has provided a unique educational model and community support since 1869. This matters to petition signers as the loss of the preschool would not only displace families relying on its services but also erase an essential part of the community's educational heritage. Your constituents are still waiting for your response. Responding can help your constituents: 1. Understand the ways you are already engaging on this issue 2. Receive additional facts or context not in the petition 3. Understand how the community can get involved Simply reply to this email with your response and we will share it with those who have signed the petition. You can also reach me directly at +1 415-907-4737 if you have any questions or want to discuss this petition further. Likewise, if you are not the decision maker, please let me know who the correct decision maker is so we can promptly share this update and adjust the petition accordingly. Thank you, Jason

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Jason Barnaby
School:	Edward Kelley
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Hello — I know you're busy, and that our outreach is just one of many you receive each day from people across the community. We also know you work hard on behalf of the community you serve and may have preferences or rules for how constituents share feedback on the issue elevated in the petition. Before you close this email, would you review the summary below and reply with a brief statement noting that you've seen and reviewed the petition, or clarify if you'd rather constituents share feedback directly with you? Petition starters and signers appreciate hearing from public officials like you — even a quick acknowledgment that you've seen the petition. We're also happy to share a link or statement if you've already addressed this issue elsewhere. Even a sentence or two we can pass along would mean a lot. Thank you! Petition Title: Save Edward Kelley Parent Participation Preschool Summary: The petition seeks to prevent the closure of the Edward Kelley Parent Participation Preschool, a historic institution in Sacramento County that has provided a unique educational model and community support since 1869. This matters to petition signers as the loss of the preschool would not only displace families relying on its services but also erase an essential part of the community's educational heritage. Link: https://change.org/p/save-edward-kelley-parent-participation-preschool

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Anthony Martin
School:	Edward Kelley
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	My name is Anthony, and I am a parent in your Area 2 district (College-Glen). I'm writing to ask for your support in keeping the Edward Kelley parent participation preschool program open and funded. Many families, including mine, were displaced when Thomas Jefferson closed, and we transitioned to Edward Kelley to continue in the program. We are now facing potential displacement again if Edward Kelley is closed. Trustees Navarro, Ybarra, and Jeane attended our parent meeting on April 28, where families shared concerns. We understand that Trustee Navarro is attempting to make a motion to place this item on an upcoming agenda for discussion before any final decision is made. We are asking for your support in ensuring Edward Kelley is fully considered during this process. Based on current projections shared with families, Edward Kelley has approximately 14 students next year, while Tahoe Park has significantly lower enrollment across multiple programs. Edward Kelley is also the closest and most accessible site for many families in our area. On a personal level, this program has been essential for our child. Her teacher identified early challenges, advocated for her needs, attended her IEP meeting after hours, and helped create a specialized learning plan to support her speech development. We would not have received this level of individualized support elsewhere. Edward Kelley is also a historic landmark building connected to the broader community, including its own building in Safetyville, and represents an important community resource worth preserving. Our teacher and parent community are willing to work collaboratively on solutions to address funding concerns and keep Edward Kelley open. The preschool teacher (Amanda Chapman aka Ms. C) is included on this email for any additional context or questions regarding the program and student needs. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Anthony Martin

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Ron and Marlene Graf
School:	Edward Kelley
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	The school board needs to be equitable and keep Edward Kelley preschool open and not just Tahoe Park. Over 1,200 people signed the petition. The board needs to do what the Rosemont community and the whole Sacramento area wants: vote to keep this very important educational landmark open. Ron and Marlene Graf Rosemont homeowners for fifty year

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Nicole L.
School:	Edward Kelley
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	This preschool is such a blessing, especially in a community where programs like this are hard to come by. It would truly be a loss to have this program close! The community that comes with a parent participation preschool is irreplaceable! Shame on the district for even considering closing this amazing program

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Alison Alexander
School:	Edward Kelley
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Do not shut the door on history. This is a school, a location, and a program to be cherished and built up. Yes, the school is costing the district money. But a school district is not a business. It should be spending money on schools and children. At face value, this program is costing more than the Tahoe program. But you already know the community has solutions to bring our costs way down, and to be less costly than even Tahoe. Our teacher is willing to give up her benefits, opting to get them from her husband's employer. That will save the districts tens of thousands of dollars. We as a community are ready to create a 501c3 fundraising organization to offset the cost of the program. There are grants we can apply for. We can work together with the district to increase enrollment, bringing in more money to offset the cost of the program. This is not an unsolvable program. It just takes the will of the decision makers.

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Cindy Brock
School:	Edward Kelley
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Both of my boys went to pre-school at Edward Kelley back when Mrs. K, was the main teacher and they loved it! I loved being a part of their learning experience at such a historical location! The parent participation program is a wonderful program and benefits many students and families in the area. Please do not close this location!

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Andy Holt
School:	Edward Kelley
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Please recall SCUSD decision to close Edward Kelley. This is not just a budget decision—it is a decision with long-term consequences. Once a school and program like Edward Kelley is closed, it is not easily restored. Staff disperse, families move on, and rebuilding trust, enrollment, and infrastructure takes far more time, effort, and resources than maintaining it today. We should be clear: this is not simply a cost-saving measure. It is a permanent loss of an historic early learning program that has served this community for generations. EK also fills a critical gap—there are very few programs that provide access to quality early education for families who do not qualify for low-income services. Losing it leaves many families without viable options. The district is facing a structural deficit, but eliminating a small preschool will not solve that problem. It risks causing lasting harm for minimal financial gain. I urge SCUSD to think beyond short-term cuts.

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Dessa Drake
School:	Crocker Riverside
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Board of Trustees, Please see our letter attached.



PO Box 1050
Bella Vista, California 96008
info@winnemem.org

April 24, 2026

Board of Trustees
Sacramento City Unified School District
5735 47th Avenue
Sacramento, California 95824

**Re: Letter of Support – Crocker/Riverside Elementary School Artificial Turf Project,
Project #0300-488**

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

Indian Cultural Organization (ICO) is one of the nonprofit organizations of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, and we write this letter on behalf of our organization and the Tribe in support of the Crocker/Riverside Elementary School families and community members who have raised concerns about the proposed installation of an artificial turf field at their school. We join the community in urging the Board to pause this project and to reconsider the selection of artificial turf in favor of natural grass with proper drainage and irrigation.

While Winnemem Wintu homeland sits at the base of Mt. Shasta, we are a salmon people, and one of our top priorities as a tribe and an organization is to advocate for the health of the waters, from our river, the Winnemem Waywaket (McCloud River), all the way to the Bay-Delta in order for salmon to return. In fact, we are co-managers with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as co-stewards with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to restore winter-run Chinook salmon to our river.

It's our understanding that this school is only a ½ mile away from the Nomtipom Waywaket (Sacramento River); plastic synthetic turf leaches toxic chemicals and breaks down into the air, water, and soil, flushing down into storm drains and into our waterways. Used tire crumbs also have a host of toxic chemicals, including 6PPD that converts to 6PPDq that is acutely toxic not only to salmon, but also to cutthroat and rainbow trout. Salmon are a **keystone species** and winter-run Chinook salmon are a California and federally endangered species. Knowing this, why would you risk the health of the Nomtipom, such a crucial artery for salmon and all the other species that rely upon them?

We support the community's position. We stand with the Crocker/Riverside families in their request that the Board pause this project and reconsider natural grass in place of synthetic turf.

We share in the CEQA concerns. We respectfully raise concerns regarding the procedural sufficiency of the district's environmental review of this project. A Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project was drafted internally in February 2026, placed on the April 16, 2026 Board agenda, and filed on April 21, 2026 — the same day as the community meeting scheduled to address parent concerns, and more than seven weeks after the Roebbelen construction contract was executed on March 5, 2026.

This sequence is difficult to reconcile with CEQA's purpose of informing decision-makers and the public before project commitments are made. A Notice of Exemption filed after the construction contract has been signed, and on the same day as the community's first formal opportunity to raise concerns, forecloses meaningful environmental review precisely where public participation is most needed.

We respectfully note the following concerns, any of which may independently implicate the “unusual circumstances” exception to categorical exemption under Public Resources Code § 21084 and CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2:

- **Proximity concerns:** the project site is located immediately adjacent to residential yards, a school food garden, and storm-drainage infrastructure that connects to public waterways. Synthetic turf is a documented source of microplastic migration, chemical leachate, and storm-sewer discharge — impacts that are not adequately evaluated for a site of this character under any categorical exemption.
- **Absence of a written mitigation plan:** the district's Assistant Superintendent for Facilities has acknowledged in writing that specific mitigation measures for microplastic migration, storm drain discharge, and infill escape have not yet been designed or committed to in writing. A categorical exemption cannot lawfully be filed while the project's primary environmental impacts remain unmitigated and the mitigation plan itself remains undocumented.
- **Heat, health, and air-quality impacts:** synthetic turf surface temperatures have been documented in published research to reach 140–180°F during hot weather — conditions reliably present in Sacramento from May through September, and now compounded by the district's recent shift to an August-start academic calendar. These thermal and potential air-quality impacts, including volatile organic compound emissions from heated synthetic materials, warrant environmental review, not exemption.
- **Community engagement deficit:** the district's own records reflect minimal community-facing communication about this project between September 2025 and March 2026. The PTO President has stated in writing that families did not learn of the planned artificial turf until early February 2026, after procurement had already been posted. A Notice of Exemption filed under these conditions forecloses meaningful environmental review precisely where meaningful public participation is most needed.

These concerns, taken together, indicate that a categorical exemption under CEQA is inappropriate for this project as currently scoped. We respectfully urge the Board to direct

staff to withhold the filing of any Notice of Exemption pending a full Initial Study, tribal and community consultation, and documented mitigation commitments.

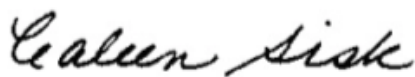
What we respectfully request: the Board take the following actions before any further procurement, contract execution, or construction activity proceeds:

1. Defer the Board's vote on the construction contract until the April 21 NOE filing has been reviewed for compliance with CEQA and the exemption determination reconsidered.
2. Rescind the Notice of Exemption filed April 21, 2026, and direct staff to prepare a full Initial Study with documented mitigation commitments and meaningful community consultation.
3. Direct district staff to reopen consideration of natural grass as a field surface, including engagement with HMC Architects regarding a plan modification scope.
4. Provide a written response from the Superintendent's office acknowledging receipt of this letter and stating the district's position on each of the requests above.

The Crocker/Riverside families are asking the district to do something simple and well within its authority: to use the change-order mechanism the district's own construction contract provides, to install natural grass rather than synthetic turf, and to engage the community in a meaningful way about a project that will shape their children's daily environment for a decade or more. We support them in that request and ask the Board to do the same.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to the district's response.

Sincerely,



Caleen Sisk
Chief and Spiritual Leader
Winnemem Wintu Tribe



Dessa Drake
Executive Director
Indian Cultural Organization

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Deborah Geideman
School:	Crocker Riverside
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Crocker-Riverside Field / Synthetic Turf I support safe, usable schoolyards and understand that Crocker-Riverside's field needs repair. But replacing living grass with synthetic turf at an elementary school should not move forward under a CEQA exemption without full public disclosure and a serious alternatives review. Before any final approval or construction commitment, SCUSD should disclose the turf product specifications, infill material, PFAS testing, heat analysis, stormwater/runoff analysis, microplastic controls, maintenance and sanitation plans, replacement cost, end-of-life disposal plan, and tree or shade impacts. The District should also study a living-schoolyard alternative: soil repair, drainage repair, shade trees, natural grass or drought-tolerant living groundcover, smart irrigation, recycled water or graywater options, and organic or regenerative turf management. This is about protecting children by reducing heat and climate resilient schoolyard design.

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Linda Mar
School:	Crocker Riverside
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Dear Board Members, It took about 50-60 years before the general public realized that asbestos was bad, mainly due to industry cover up since the 1930s. The same applies to PFAS and other chemicals (the dangers of which were known to industries such as 3M and Dupont since the 1950s-1960s) which are now at the forefront of public awareness and legislative action. The ‘Yes on Crocker Modernization’ website cites several studies that suggest artificial turf is ‘safe.’ These include studies done by ECHA (2017), RIVM (2017), EPA (2019/2024), OEHHHA (2026) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (2010). We all know science is continuously evolving and new discoveries are made everyday. That’s why asbestos has been phased out. The tide is turning on artificial turf too. In September 2023, the entire European Union and EEA member countries (which includes the Netherlands, Norway, and Italy) banned crumb rubber from artificial turf. In January 2019, a bill was introduced in Connecticut to ban artificial turf. In recent years, 7 towns in CT have proposed or placed bans on artificial turf. Cities and schools across the country are banning artificial turf and/or crumb rubber products. In April 2026, the EPA listed microplastics (which includes crumb rubber and artificial turf fibers) and PFAS as contaminants in drinking water. This is another important step in recognition and further regulation. The science on the risks of artificial turf and other plastics is evolving. What we do know is these products contain many of the harmful chemicals already proven to be carcinogens and endocrine disruptors. Let's not make a mistake now and discover the consequences decades later. Similar to asbestos in school buildings, once installed, artificial turf would

require extensive remediation to return the field back to its natural state. Natural grass is the long term, cheapest option. Artificial turf would require enormous expense, downtime, and construction to replace every 8-10 years in perpetuity.

It is not true that the grass field is 'closed.' It is still being used. In fact, they just held soccer scrimmages on it last week. None of the kids think the grass field is 'scary' or 'dangerous.' On the other hand, the club soccer kids at school express disappointment and anxiety about the fake turf as they do not like playing on it.

The grass field has been in disrepair for years, yet is still being used. There are over 600 students now and people want to paint a picture like they are crammed together like sardines on the blacktop with nowhere else to go. The kids are not suffering, they are still having fun and enjoying themselves on the play structure and with games on the blacktop. That's not to say that the grass shouldn't be repaired, however the argument that kids are suffering and not being active is not accurate.

A neighbor who lives near the McClatchy track and field (where artificial turf was installed in 2018) said she was surprised to hear about the Crocker project and would be 'completely opposed.' The 'chemical smell at McClatchy is bad' and 'it feels like a heat dome near the McClatchy track in the summer.'

Lastly, I want to make a point regarding field closures (due to maintenance or muddy conditions) that might not be popular in this age of instant gratification. When a grass field is closed for use, kids will have the opportunity to use their ingenuity and resources to adapt and improvise. They will learn to be resilient in times of disappointment and adversity. They will learn to be patient and will understand and appreciate that the grass field, the earth, and things in general need to be cared for and other people work hard to provide them with things that they enjoy and normally take for granted.

Ultimately, natural grass is safer than plastic turf, no one can argue that fact. And that is all you need to know to make the right choice for this project. Please choose natural grass and wood chips for this project!

Thank you,
Linda Mar

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Mukesh Sahu
School:	Crocker Riverside
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	This is a comment for the proposed replacement of grass in the playground with artificial turf. This is a terrible idea and goes against everything that makes this school and community what it is. Land Park is literally a green oasis with grass, trees, and flowers visible in every direction from any spot. To have this be the reality for the community we live in, while changing the place where this greenery is the most valuable (i.e. where young children spend the majority of their day), is both counterintuitive and destructive. Natural grass will ALWAYS be a better choice than artificial plastic. I understand this decision has to do in large part with cost. Even the cost analysis presented by the District strongly favors grass. A 20-year cost projection showing better economics with turf is highly misleading, given that with time (between 30 and 40 years depending on assumptions), grass becomes LESS expensive than turf. PLEASE do right by our kids and choose grass!! Cost breakdown of grass vs turf Unless the grand plan is to shut CR down in 20 years, there is no reason to limit the projection to that time period. Using your numbers and extending further, maintenance costs break even at the 40-year mark (remarkably almost to the dollar at \$1,102,938 vs \$1,103,653). After this, grass becomes LESS expensive to maintain annually. Second, the projection accounts for a turf replacement period of 20 years. This is highly unrealistic. Turf has an accepted useful life of 10-15 years, and in the case of Sacramento and our exceptionally hot (and thus damaging) summers, replacement could potentially be required closer to the 10 year side of that range. If we assume replacement every 15 years, we actually hit the breakeven point in less than 30 years, with grass being cheaper thereafter. And this is only looking at it from a monetary perspective, without contending with the highly significant noneconomic costs of turf as stated by many.

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Linda Mar
School:	Crocker Riverside
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	District officials reference the OEHHA study on crumb rubber infill as ‘proof’ that artificial turf is ‘safe.’ There are many flaws to that study. Referencing this article (against a plethora of other evidence proving the harms of artificial turf and its constituents) is misleading, biased, and gives parents a false sense of security. Here are excerpts from rebuttals/peer review and statements from the OEHHA advisory panel: From the Collaborative for Health & Environment: Based on the press release, families and decision-makers might interpret the report findings as providing evidence of safety of tire crumb, or even artificial turf more broadly, in areas where children play. However, the press release does not make clear the study scope and limitations that are described in the body of the report. The study was designed only to assess health effects of chemicals in tire crumb. It does not examine other hazards, such as risk of heat illness or injuries on artificial turf fields, and it does not address environmental impacts. Risk assessments for a single chemical can be highly complex, and risk assessments for chemical mixtures are even more complicated. Among other issues, the health effects of a mixture can be different from, and greater than, the effects of the individual chemicals on their own. “More than 100” sounds like a lot, but it represents just a subset of the chemicals that OEHHA tentatively identified in tire crumb. The final report explains, “OEHHA’s study tentatively identified more than 400 organic chemicals initially,” and then focused on a smaller number of organic chemicals as well as metals and metalloids for targeted analysis and the risk assessment. The OEHHA study did not conduct biomonitoring but rather estimated exposures using information including video footage, athletes’ reported time for practice and play, and laboratory tests of chemical releases from tire crumb.

It is also important to understand that OEHHA used average expected exposures rather than the exposures of athletes who reported the largest amount of time on tire crumb.

“OEHHA’s study of 35 synthetic turf fields with crumb rubber infill adds to the growing literature about exposure to chemicals that may be released from crumb rubber. The OEHHA study is a risk assessment based on detected chemicals with TC [toxicity criteria] values for which exposure assessment was conducted, and **it is not a health impact study or an epidemiological evaluation.**”

The study **does not provide biomonitoring data, does not assess risk for the most highly exposed athletes, and does not assess the effect of exposure to the entire mixture of chemicals present in tire crumb.** The study makes a substantial contribution to the literature, but **does not necessarily support a summary statement that “athletes of all ages can use these fields without parents worrying about this commonly used material.”**

Risk assessments ask the question, “How much excess disease will result from use of this chemical or material?” Findings from a risk assessment are then used in policy decisions, which ask the question, “What level of excess disease is acceptable?”

The **toxics use reduction methodology** asks the question, “Is this exposure necessary? Is there a safer alternative?” **Rather than calculating excess disease risk, this approach focuses on finding options for reducing or eliminating toxic exposures.**

[https://www.healthandenvironment.org/latest-research/blog/understanding-oeahas-tire-crumb-risk-assessment-\(part-1\)-the-study-and-the-press-release](https://www.healthandenvironment.org/latest-research/blog/understanding-oeahas-tire-crumb-risk-assessment-(part-1)-the-study-and-the-press-release)

From OEHHA advisory panel:

“But the caveat of this study, experts cautioned, is the **lack of long-term health data on real people.** The study **relied primarily on laboratory chemical analysis and anecdotal participant surveys, rather than tracking whether users actually developed health problems over time.**”

“When the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment decided to do a study, they felt like they **didn’t have the resources to do a good and comprehensive epidemiology study,**” said **John Balmes**, a professor of environmental health sciences at UC Berkeley’s School of Public Health who served as chair of the group’s synthetic turf scientific advisory committee.

Balmes continued, adding that he would not tell parents that synthetic turf is better than grass in terms of health and safety.

Ed Avol, a professor of clinical preventive medicine at USC’s Keck School of Medicine who also served on the advisory panel, agreed that data was limited in the state study. **Avol also pushed back on the common cost-savings justification that decision makers often promote, arguing that artificial turf is not the maintenance-free solution districts assume it to be.**

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Linda Mar
School:	Crocker Riverside
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Dear Board Members, I also want to address the planned PIP rubber for the two new playgrounds. These surfaces pose similar toxic and heat risks for children as artificial turf. I respectfully ask for a pivot to ADA compliant EWF wood chips instead, which is also a long term more cost effective option. Excerpts from the Ecology center website: In 2019, the Ecology center tested lead levels in PIP rubber playground surfaces. Some of the lead levels were 100 times higher than what is allowed in children's products. Third-party lab results validated the findings of high levels of lead, with results showing 7,079 and 6,514 parts per million (ppm) in two individual tire shred samples. The City of Washington, D.C. performed additional testing through a private laboratory. High levels of lead were found at three local playgrounds: Aiton Elementary School, Cardozo Education Campus, and Thomson Elementary School. As a result, the playgrounds were closed indefinitely. The closures were the first of their kind, because D.C. had never tested these kinds of playground surfaces for lead before. Lead has historically been added during the tire manufacturing process step called vulcanization to improve elasticity. Tires can also pick up lead from lead wheel weights and lead paint on highway strips. Additionally, tires are known to contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), a group of chemicals linked to many health concerns. Dibenzopyrenes, a highly carcinogenic group of PAHs, have been found in automobile tires. A recent study showed that PAH levels in dust were 4-5 times higher on PIP playgrounds compared to playgrounds with uncovered bare ground. Crumb rubber from shredded tires does not stay attached to the molded PIP playground surfaces (for example, the McKinley playground has cracks, worn and exposed rubber surfaces). Particles break off, can stick to the bottoms of children's shoes, and get in their clothing, hair, and mouths. Dust from the crumb rubber can be inhaled or get on skin and clothes. Children are especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of lead

and PAHs due to their developing bodies and their frequent hand to mouth activity. **There is no safe level of lead exposure, a known neurotoxin.**

<https://www.ecocenter.org/playgrounds-should-be-fun-and-toxic-free>

Compare this to a study done in Finland published in 2020 on the benefits of natural environments:

From the Guardian:

Increasingly, scientists are learning that our health is intimately linked to our surroundings, and to the ecological health of the world around us.

In the first year of that study, they found that children playing in the green kindergartens had less disease-causing bacteria – such as *Streptococcus* – on their skin, and stronger immune defences. Their gut microbiota showed reduced levels of *Clostridium* bacteria – associated with inflammatory bowel disease, colitis and infections such as sepsis and botulism. Within 28 days it found an **increase in cells in the blood – called T regulatory cells – that protect the body from autoimmune diseases.**

Even breathing counts: the air has its own microbiome, which is associated with tree and plant species in the surrounding area. Soil – home to 90% of the world’s fungi – also feeds the microbiome in the air.

Scientists think one of the reasons so many people now have allergies is because they were not exposed to microbes that occur naturally in the environment at a young age. The “old friends” hypothesis says humans evolved alongside microbes in air, plants and soil. The body can exchange useful microbes (bacteria and fungi, for example) with the natural world to stay healthy.

Marja Roslund, a scientist at the Natural Resources Institute Finland, says: “It’s good for national health. Immune diseases are expensive. **Even a small reduction in the burden of these diseases is good for national health and the economy.**”

This study provides more evidence of just how crucial healthy ecosystems are to human health. As biodiversity, habitats and wild species are lost around the planet, there are huge potential repercussions for human wellbeing. **Increasing on site biodiversity can be a win-win for children’s health and the environment.**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/oct/29/soil-sandpit-children-dirty-biodiversity-finnish-nurseries-research-microbes-bacteria-aoe>

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Erin Baum
School:	Crocker Riverside
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Dear Members of the Board, I'm writing as a community member and parent to a Crocker Riverside student to offer perspective on recent outreach you received regarding the Crocker Riverside turf project. I want to address several of the claims being circulated: “The community has spoken.” Respectfully, a few dozen speakers and a petition—even one with several hundred signatures—do not represent the full Crocker Riverside community. Public comment reflects those with the time and capacity to participate in lengthy processes. Many families are not able to attend multi-hour meetings or engage in coordinated advocacy, and their perspectives are not captured in these forums. Further, turnout at a single meeting and petition signatures are not reliable proxies for overall community sentiment. They reflect who was mobilized—not a representative cross-section of families. Request for Board intervention (“bifurcation” of the project). The request for the Board to intervene and fundamentally alter the project at this stage would be an extraordinary step. It would override the District’s planning procedures, create delays, and likely increase costs—without clear evidence of broad, representative community consensus. Fiscal reality and prioritization. This is especially concerning given the District’s current financial condition. The District is facing a projected \$390 million deficit by 2027–28 and is working to avoid state receivership. This pressure is only increasing. Under the Governor’s proposed 2026–27 state budget, K–12 schools could face funding delays, further straining district finances as the state manages a multi-year, multi-billion-dollar deficit.

There is zero justification for reopening a settled project, incurring additional costs, or diverting staff time in response to a *narrow and highly organized group*.

I respectfully urge the Board to:

- Rely on established processes and professional staff recommendations
- Avoid last-minute scope changes driven by fringe engagement
- Keep the project on track and within budget
- Stay focused on the fiscal stability of the district

Thank you for your time and for your continued service to the full community.

Respectfully,
Erin Baum

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Meredith Vivian
School:	Crocker Riverside
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Members of the Board, I write to +1 what my fellow Crocker parent, Erin Baum, so eloquently stated below. The only thing I'd add is that I find it fascinating that a group of parents who spend very little time actively contributing to Crocker have all of a sudden found so much time to organize against a badly needed infrastructure project at our school. As Erin says, please stick to your current plan for upgrades at Crocker and do not allow a fringe group of parents to dissuade you from doing right by our kids with these important improvements. Thank you, Meredith

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Jeff Sunny
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Dear Director Coletto, I want to start by asking: How long ago was the Title 5 cannabis dispensary expansion study commissioned, and why has this study — and what the City may be planning regarding dispensary expansion — not been clearly referenced throughout the broader Title 17 process? If this study has been underway for some time, why has this information not been openly presented to the general public, community stakeholders, and city leaders as part of these ongoing discussions? Given the direct relationship between dispensary expansion, land-use policy, and the potential impact on sensitive uses, withholding or failing to clearly present this information raises serious concerns about transparency, trust, and whether the public is being given the full picture. Could you please share: • When this study was commissioned • Who authorized or requested it • Its purpose and scope • The expected timeline for public release • How the public will be able to access it • Whether its findings will be formally presented during the Title 17 process so the community and city leaders can fully understand how expanded dispensary policies may affect neighborhoods, public safety, and protected sensitive uses Out of trust, transparency, and respect for the community, I believe it is only fair that this information be openly disclosed rather than appearing hidden until after key policy conversations are already underway. Right now, it feels like critical information tied to cannabis expansion and its broader implications has not been properly communicated, and the public deserves full visibility before major policy decisions are made. I have blind copied community leaders on this email as well so they can better understand what is happening and remain informed on how these decisions may affect Sacramento neighborhoods, public health, and long-standing sensitive-use protections. Thank you for your time, transparency, and commitment to an informed and honest public process.

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Brenda Waters
School:	George Washington Carver
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	I'm a grandparent of a child in this school. I was shocked to see the article in the Sacramento Bee. After 9 months of private tutoring with three tutors and family members, my grandson got caught up from fourth grade level to eighth grade level when he started junior high. He is doing well working part time at Savemart and staying in school. I have donated to this school, but never got a response. Now, that I see the deficit, I suggest you sell the school to the City of Rancho Cordova and allow those current students at this school to complete their high school education here.

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Faye Wilson Kennedy
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	School Closures in the District The Black Parallel School Board (BPSB) clearly understands that you have to make very difficult decisions. We are most alarmed that the Black community's concerns about the plan for closing schools were not taken seriously. School closures in Sacramento and nationally disproportionately impact students and communities of color, exacerbating educational inequities, fueling learning loss, and causing financial distress. These closures, often driven by declining enrollment and budget deficits, predominantly affect schools with higher populations of Black and Latino students, leading to increased commutes, reduced access to community services, and higher rates of chronic absenteeism. We also submit our letter to board members and staff via email. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please get in touch with us at Black Parallel School Board or info@blackparallelschoolboard.com

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Faye Wilson Kennedy
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	African American Studies Implementation 2026-27 On behalf of the Black Parallel School Board (BPSB) and the Sacramento Area Black Caucus (SABC), we are writing to express our concerns about the African American Studies Implementation 2026-27, given the district's financial crisis. The African American studies course will be closely aligned with California's history-social science standards, ensuring that students meet state expectations for historical knowledge and civic understanding while centering African and African American voices. We would be happy to engage with you, the staff, parents, students, and the community regarding the implementation of the African American Studies program/curriculum. Thank you for your consideration, attention, and cooperation. We will submit our full comments via email today. Faye Wilson Kennedy, Black Parallel School Board (BPSB), and the Sacramento Area Black Caucus (SABC),

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Danielle Lerer
School:	Theodore Judah
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Hi- I'm worried about the future of our 3rd and 4th graders who will be in middle school during the construction of Miwok. I'd like to request a community meeting with parents this spring to discuss and get input on the options. We need to find the best solution for neighborhood kids, parents and families. Thank you. Danielle

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Jake Shuler
School:	Theodore Judah
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Hi there - I am a parent of 2 children in East Sacramento elementary schools. It is important that the district meet as soon as possible with parents of 3rd and 4th graders impacted by the Miwok reconstruction project and to also discuss making Umoja East Sacramento's neighborhood high school. This will keep kids--and revenue -- in the district. Thank you for reading.

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Katie Johnson Heidorn
School:	East Sacramento Schools
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Dear Interim Superintendent McArn, Assistant Superintendent Ralston, Interim Chief Business Officer Grant Dawson, President Jeane, Area 2 Board Member Singh, Please find an "open letter" to school leaders from over 60 parents of children attending East Sacramento schools below. During this time of crisis for our district, we propose 2 solutions that meet the needs of both East Sacramento families and SCUSD: 1) maximize enrollment at the severely underenrolled Umoja; 2) keep East Sacramento families in SCUSD neighborhood public schools from TK - 12; and, 3) retain students in SCUSD during the Miwok reconstruction project. We request that you host two meetings immediately: 1) a town hall addressing the details of both the Miwok reconstruction and the need for a neighborhood-based East Sacramento high school with the express purpose of keeping SCUSD dollars in the district by keeping as many SCUSD students enrolled as possible, and, 2) create a steering committee that includes parents, district staff, teachers, and impacted students to move forward on these ideas as soon as possible. Please acknowledge receipt of this email and let me know when it's convenient for you to meet so we can plan a town hall and steering committee. Sincerely, East Sacramento Parents April 28, 2026 To: Interim Superintendent McArn, Assistant Superintendent Ralston, Interim Chief Business Officer Grant Dawson, President Jeane, District 3 and Board Member Singh, Superintendent Gordon, President Corona Sabeniano, Area 1 Board Member Lefkovitz, County Advisor Cázares, President Milevsky, and Executive Director Borsos

Subject: Keeping East Sacramento Families in SCUSD — Facilities and Fiscal Solutions to Retain Students and Revenue

We write as East Sacramento parents committed to strong public schools and to keeping our children learning in their neighborhood—from elementary through high school. Two urgent challenges threaten to push families out of Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD). We also offer two practical solutions that protect students, stabilize enrollment, increase revenue, and strengthen community trust.

1. Short Term Challenge: Miwok Middle School Reconstruction

A recent Abridged article revealed plans to demolish and rebuild Miwok Middle School. Families learned of this only through the article—not through direct communication from the district to impacted families. Despite Assistant Superintendent Ralston’s claims, no outreach has occurred to impacted families (their children are currently 3rd and 4th graders).

Key concerns:

- Student displacement: Sending 7th (and possibly 8th) graders to schools across the city is unworkable. Families who rely on walking, biking, and local after school programs will face major disruptions and will likely leave the district for private school rather than be relocated far away from their neighborhood.
- Reduced school size: Shrinking Miwok below 1,000 students assumes families will simply choose other SCUSD middle schools. They will not. They will leave the district entirely—taking two years of middle school and four years of high school revenue with them.

Short Term Solutions

Temporarily relocate incoming 7th graders and their teachers to Umoja.

- Umoja has low enrollment (412 students) and a large capacity (1,023). This allows 8th graders to remain at Miwok during construction and keeps most students close enough to walk or bike.

Maintain Miwok’s current enrollment size.

- Demographic trends show strong demand for Miwok. Reducing its capacity will exacerbate the existing pattern of families exiting SCUSD before high school.

Short Term Requests

We respectfully ask SCUSD and SCOE to:

1. Hold a public town hall—virtual and in person—immediately.
2. Prioritize solutions that avoid scattering students across the district.
3. Publish and update a quarterly Miwok reconstruction roadmap to ensure transparency.

2. Long Term Challenge: No Neighborhood High School for East Sacramento

Each year, SCUSD loses hundreds of high school students—and the revenue tied to them—because East Sacramento lacks a neighborhood high school. Students instead attend private schools, other districts, or overcrowded SCUSD campuses like West Campus and McClatchy.

At the April 23 Special Board Meeting, Assistant Superintendent Ralston and the Board acknowledged the need to optimize existing facilities. This is a plan to do so.

Long Term Solution: Make Umoja the Neighborhood High School

We propose that SCUSD rezone Umoja as the official 9–12 high school for East Sacramento and Midtown once Miwok is rebuilt, and rezone Umoja’s 7th and 8th graders to Miwok or other appropriate middle schools.

Win-Win: this approach meets the priorities of SCUSD and the needs of neighborhood families.

- Maximizes enrollment at an existing site with capacity for roughly 1,000 students.
- Keeps many students in SCUSD who currently leave after 8th grade, preserving nearly \$30 million in revenue over four years.
- Reflects actual family behavior: East Sacramento students rarely attend the high schools they are currently zoned for—Rosemont (River Park), Hiram Johnson (East Sacramento), or the already impacted McClatchy (Midtown families).

Enrollment and Revenue Assumptions

A reconstituted Umoja high school would serve approximately 251 students per grade, drawn from:

- David Lubin 6th graders: 61
- Theodore Judah 6th graders: 61
- Caleb Greenwood 6th graders: 82
- Half of Phoebe Hearst’s 6th graders (not a neighborhood school but heavily attended by East Sac families): ~47

Total: 251 students per grade × 4 grades = ~1,004 students, nearly matching Umoja’s capacity.

Financially, retaining these students instead of losing them after 8th grade could generate up to \$27.5 million:

- \$27,418 per student × 251 students × 4 years = \$27,527,672

This revenue is currently lost because East Sacramento lacks a neighborhood high school. Note that this is nearly the same amount of revenue needed to close the gap on slide 35 of Assistant Superintendent Ralston’s April 23 presentation.

We urge the district to review its own data on where East Sacramento and Midtown students actually enroll and/or leave SCUSD.

The Opportunity

You have a rare chance to make decisions that keep East Sacramento families in SCUSD for grades 7–12. The alternative is continued enrollment loss and long term revenue decline.

We want to invest in our public schools and remain part of this community. We stand ready to partner with you in building solutions that work for students, families, and the district.

With respect and urgency,

Parents of East Sacramento Schools

Katie and Nicolas Heidorn (parents of TK, 1st, and 3rd grade students at Theodore Judah)

Jake and Radhika Shuler (parents of K and 3rd grade students at Theodore Judah)

Sarah and Michael Peterson (parents of K and 3rd grade students at Theodore Judah)

Michelle Healy Mouser (parent of twin 3rd grade students)

Jill Harris and Brian Duncan (parents of a 3rd grade student)

Sarah and Marcos Dolislager (parent of 3rd grade student)

Tom and Shawna Holley (parent of 3rd grade and TK students)

Ingrid Kantola and David Charbonneau (parents of 1st grade student, and incoming TK student)

Samantha and Tyler Stradleigh (parents of 2nd and TK students)

Moriah McCarvel (parent of 2nd grader at Phoebe Hearst)

Alex Wegmann (parent of 3rd grader at Caleb Greenwood)

Jessica and Chad Trevisan (parents of 3rd grader at David Lubin)

Erica and Danny Adams (parents of 3rd grader at Caleb Greenwood)

Erin Green and Mitchell Arno (parents of Kindergartener and 3rd grader at Caleb Greenwood)

Brittany Brown and Richard Reffett (parents of 5th grader at Caleb Greenwood)

	Katherine and Sean Young (parents of kinder at David Lubin) Anna and Nicolas Reinhart (parents of a kindergartener, 2nd grader, and 5th grader) Theresa Martinez (parent of 3rd grader at Caleb Greenwood) Dena Spatz (parent of kinder and 3rd grader at Theodore Judah) Danielle Lerer and Myles Campbell (parents of a kindergartner and 3rd grader at Theodore Judah) Sarah Sawyer and Alain Mathaukot (parents of 6th grader and 3rd grader at Theodore Judah) Suzannah and Michael Robertson (parents of a 3rd grader at Theodore Judah) Stephanie Santoso and Andreas Kuehn (parents of a kindergartener) Andrea Koch and Matt Eckhardt (parents of three children at Theodore Judah) Megan Ash and Leland Bourdon (parents of a kindergarten and 3rd grader at Caleb Greenwood) Juri and Matt Peña (parents of 3rd and 5th grader at Caleb Greenwood) Dana Hansen (parent of 3rd and 1st grader at Caleb Greenwood) Tessa Carter (parent of 3rd and 1st graders at Phoebe Hearst) Amy and Gary Stock (parents of 3rd grader and kindergartener at Theodore Judah) Shana and Jaipal Nijjar (parents of a TK student, 2nd grader and 3rd grader at Caleb Greenwood) Josh Hauck and Tricia Juanitas (parents of a TK student at Caleb Greenwood) Jackie Turrubiarres and Aaron Bruski (parents of kindergartener at David Lubin) Kaycie Yong (parents of 1st and 3rd graders at Phoebe Hearst) Jessica Washington (parents of two 1st graders at Theodore Judah) Kim and Jake Fennessy (parents of kindergartener and 2nd grader at Caleb Greenwood) Jenelle and Greg Reali (parents of 9th grader at Christian Brothers, 7th grader at Miwok and 1st, 3rd & 6th graders at Phoebe Hearst)
--	--

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Katie Heidorn
School:	East Sacramento Schools
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Dear SCUSD Board Members and Superintendent McArn, I'm a parent 3 children attending an East Sacramento elementary school. I respectfully request that you: 1) Meet as soon as possible with parents of 3rd and 4th graders impacted by the Miwok reconstruction project. Assistant Superintendent Ralston promised engagement this spring, but, unfortunately, it hasn't happened. We would like to understand the project timeline, the plan for where students will be located during construction, and the updated site plan, including site capacity. 2) We'd like to propose that, if students need to be relocated during construction, that they be moved to Umoja, the closest middle school to Miwok. It is still in the neighborhood and students would still be able to walk and bike to school. 3) We'd also like to propose that the district implement a long-discussed solution to students leaving the district after 8th grade: making Umoja a 9-12 neighborhood high school. This will keep kids in their neighborhood and keep much-needed long term revenue in the district as well. This would maximize Umoja's site capacity (currently only 35% full), meeting the district's stated objective to fully utilize existing school sites. The zoning boundaries could be easily redrawn to zone East Sacramento, River Park, and parts of Midtown, Tahoe Park, and North Oak Park for a 9-12 Umoja high school (these areas currently are zoned for East Sacramento elementary schools and/or Umoja for middle and high school). I hope the district will consider these proposals as win-wins. Thanks, Katie Heidorn

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Carissa Carotakis
School:	East Sacramento Schools
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Dear Board Members, I am a parent of a 1st grader at David Lubin Elementary in East Sacramento as well as a 5 and 2 year old. It is vital that you meet with families soon to discuss Miwok's upcoming construction project and discuss how we can make Umoja East Sacramento's neighborhood high school. Please discuss how we can make this happen at your board meeting tomorrow. I have often thought about moving from this area because there is no viable high school option for my kids. I called Miwok a few years ago and asked how many kids go to the assigned Hiram Johnson school and they told me zero. This is absurd. We all want our kids to grow up in a city where they can remain at school with the same kids they went to elementary school with. We want our kids to be able to walk or ride bikes to middle and high school. We understand that there is concern regarding low student enrollment. I can tell you that you would see a huge change in enrollment by offering East Sac families a neighborhood high school. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Carissa Caryotakis

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Katie Heidorn
School:	East Sacramento Schools
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Dear Board Members and District staff, At your April 23 special meeting, you began how to discuss maximizing enrollment at schools. Due to the Miwok reconstruction timeline, this becomes an urgent issue for East Sacramento. Here are some zoning, Miwok reconstruction student temporary relocation, and East Sacramento High School suggestions (see below). I hope you'll seriously consider them and take action quickly. The community wants this. The district needs this. Best, Katie Heidorn For Miwok reconstruction, there are a few options when thinking about what to do with students that will keep them in the neighborhood. Keeping all students on campus during construction: In January/February 2028, when enrolling students for the 2028-2029 school year (these rising 7th graders would be 8th graders when construction begins), allow only students zoned for Miwok to attend. Do not allow any open enrollment. Do the same thing for the rising 7th graders in January 2029 and January 2030. This will significantly reduce Miwok's student population during the construction period, thus allowing neighborhood kids to stay at their neighborhood school and many teachers to remain at their longtime school while allowing construction to occur as needed. Relocate Miwok-zoned students for the duration of construction to Umoja, the geographically-closest middle school to Miwok.

Follow the same limited enrollment strategy as described above, but place the 7th and 8th graders in 2029-2030, and 2030-2031 at Umoja. Send the Miwok teachers to Umoja as well. This will keep neighborhood kids in the neighborhood and keep the teachers together too.

You could also keep the 8th graders at Miwok and only relocate the 7th graders as well.

Nonviable options:

Relocate Miwok-zoned kids across the district. All middle schools other than Umoja are far away--round trip to the closest would be 30 minutes at peak pick up and drop off times, for 1 hour traveling/day. Many families have multiple kids with multiple schools--this is untenable for a lot of families. Many of these kids will go to private schools (eg Courtyard and Merryhill are both in midtown and close to East Sacramento) and the district will lose revenue. It's possible that most of them will also go private for high school, further compounding revenue loss.

Relocate Miwok-zoned kids to Hiram Johnson High School or Sacramento High/St Hope campus. You'd get the same result--private school and lost revenue.

Turn Umoja into East Sacramento's neighborhood high school:

Timeline: if Umoja will be a temporary home during Miwok Reconstruction, 9th grade enrollment should begin in 2030-2031 (the relocated 8th graders will be at Umoja in 2029-2030 and stay for high school beginning 2030-2031).

If Miwok students won't be relocated, the district should move quickly to maximize enrollment and, therefore, revenue. They should work with parents and teachers to enroll a full 9th grade class in January 2027 to start at Umoja September 2028.

The district should invest in athletic and arts/music facilities ASAP. If they are not updated in time for the 2028-2029 school year, they could compete on Hiram Johnson or West Campus teams, but I suggest they try as hard as possible to be ready for a "full" high school experience from the beginning--academics, arts, and athletics. I'm sure parents would be happy to assist.

Enrollment Zoning: All students currently zoned for East Sacramento elementary schools--Caleb Greenwood, Theodore Judah, and David Lubin--would be automatically zoned for Miwok for 7-8 grades and Umoja for 9-12 grades. This is the low-bound enrollment. You can add in students zoned for other nearby schools to get to an upper-bound enrollment number: Tahoe Elementary, Washington Elementary, and William Land Elementary. Students at these elementary schools are already zoned for Umoja and Miwok for middle school. The Midtown kids are zoned for McClatchy for high school, which is already overcrowded. The Tahoe kids are zoned for Hiram Johnson for high school, but if they're zoned for Miwok, they should also go to Umoja to stay with their friends.

Current 4-6th grade enrollment (source: 4/30 Agenda enrollment report)

Caleb 230 (4-6)

Judah 168 (4-6)

	Lubin 201 (4-6) Tahoe 102 (4-6) Washington 140 (4-6) William Land 141 (4-6) Phoebe (some students are already in the zoning area) 273 (4-6) (assume 50% live in neighborhood) 137 Total: 1,119 (3 grades) Approximate 4 grades: $1,119 * 1.25 = 1,399$ Caleb Judah Lubin Total: $599 * 1.25 = 749$ Phoebe (50%) Tahoe 239 $599 + 239 = 838$ $838 * 1.25 = 1,048$
--	--

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Sarah Peterson
School:	East Sacramento Schools
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Dear SCUSD Board Members and Superintendent McArn, I am a parent of 2 children attending an East Sacramento elementary school (kindergarten an 3rd grade). I respectfully request that you: 1) Meet as soon as possible with parents of 3rd and 4th graders impacted by the Miwok reconstruction project. Assistant Superintendent Ralston promised engagement this spring, but, unfortunately, it hasn't happened. As families that will be affected by this project, we would like to understand the project timeline, the plan for where students will be located during construction, and the updated site plan, including site capacity. 2) We'd like to propose that, if students need to be relocated during construction, that they be moved to Umoja, the closest middle school to Miwok. It is still in the neighborhood and students would still be able to walk and bike to school. 3) We'd also like to propose that the district implement a long-discussed solution to students leaving the district after 8th grade: making Umoja a 9-12 neighborhood high school. This will keep kids in their neighborhood and keep much-needed long term revenue in the district as well. This would maximize Umoja's site capacity (currently only 35% full), meeting the district's stated objective to fully utilize existing school sites. The zoning boundaries could be easily redrawn to zone East Sacramento, River Park, and parts of Midtown, Tahoe Park, and North Oak Park for a 9-12 Umoja high school (these areas currently are zoned for East Sacramento elementary schools and/or Umoja for middle and high school). I hope the district will consider these proposals and I feel that they benefit both the district and families. Thanks, Sarah Peterson

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Kayte Fisher
School:	East Sacramento Schools
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Dear Board Members and District staff, At your April 23 special meeting, you began discussing maximizing enrollment at schools. This is a long overdue discussion given how chronically underenrolled SCUSD middle schools are - creating huge inefficiencies and limiting educational opportunities for students. Due to the Miwok reconstruction timeline (which has been unacceptably opaque and vague), this becomes an urgent issue for East Sacramento students and their families. The truism is 'failure to plan is planning to fail,' and this is especially true now. The Board and district staff's failure to plan for the future of its students mean that it is absolutely planning to fail. In the absence of any meaningful communication from district staff, parents have taken on the job of presenting viable, thoughtful, cost-effective, and frankly easy solutions to you - only to have ineffective district staff dismiss them. I'm talking specifically about Chris Ralston, who has been dismissive of our efforts. Before we begin a full court press in the media and politically, please immediately direct staff to implement the suggestions below. I hope you'll seriously consider them and take action quickly. The community wants this. The district needs this. Failure to act isn't just nonfeasance, it's malpractice. Kayte Fisher For Miwok reconstruction, there are a few options when thinking about what to do with students that will keep them in the neighborhood. Keeping all students on campus during construction: In January/February 2028, when enrolling students for the 2028-2029 school year (these

rising 7th graders would be 8th graders when construction begins), allow only students zoned for Miwok to attend. Do not allow any open enrollment.

Do the same thing for the rising 7th graders in January 2029 and January 2030. This will significantly reduce Miwok's student population during the construction period, thus allowing neighborhood kids to stay at their neighborhood school and many teachers to remain at their longtime school while allowing construction to occur as needed.

Relocate Miwok-zoned students for the duration of construction to Umoja, the geographically-closest middle school to Miwok.

Follow the same limited enrollment strategy as described above, but place the 7th and 8th graders in 2029-2030, and 2030-2031 at Umoja. Send the Miwok teachers to Umoja as well. This will keep neighborhood kids in the neighborhood and keep the teachers together too.

You could also keep the 8th graders at Miwok and only relocate the 7th graders as well.

Nonviable options:

Relocate Miwok-zoned kids across the district. All middle schools other than Umoja are far away--round trip to the closest would be 30 minutes at peak pick up and drop off times, for 1 hour traveling/day. Many families have multiple kids with multiple schools--this is untenable for a lot of families. Many of these kids will go to private schools (eg Courtyard and Merryhill are both in midtown and close to East Sacramento) and the district will lose revenue. It's possible that most of them will also go private for high school, further compounding revenue loss.

Relocate Miwok-zoned kids to Hiram Johnson High School or Sacramento High/St Hope campus. You'd get the same result--private school and lost revenue.

Turn Umoja into East Sacramento's neighborhood high school:

Timeline: if Umoja will be a temporary home during Miwok Reconstruction, 9th grade enrollment should begin in 2030-2031 (the relocated 8th graders will be at Umoja in 2029-2030 and stay for high school beginning 2030-2031).

If Miwok students won't be relocated, the district should move quickly to maximize enrollment and, therefore, revenue. They should work with parents and teachers to enroll a full 9th grade class in January 2027 to start at Umoja September 2028.

The district should invest in athletic and arts/music facilities ASAP. If they are not updated in time for the 2028-2029 school year, they could compete on Hiram Johnson or West Campus teams, but I suggest they try as hard as possible to be ready for a "full" high school experience from the beginning--academics, arts, and athletics. I'm sure parents would be happy to assist.

Enrollment Zoning: All students currently zoned for East Sacramento elementary schools--Caleb Greenwood, Theodore Judah, and David Lubin--would be automatically zoned for Miwok for 7-8 grades and Umoja for 9-12 grades. This is the low-bound enrollment. You

can add in students zoned for other nearby schools to get to an upper-bound enrollment number: Tahoe Elementary, Washington Elementary, and William Land Elementary. Students at these elementary schools are already zoned for Umoja and Miwok for middle school. The Midtown kids are zoned for McClatchy for high school, which is already overcrowded. The Tahoe kids are zoned for Hiram Johnson for high school, but if they're zoned for Miwok, they should also go to Umoja to stay with their friends.

Current 4-6th grade enrollment (source: 4/30 Agenda enrollment report)

Caleb 230 (4-6)
Judah 168 (4-6)
Lubin 201 (4-6)
Tahoe 102 (4-6)
Washington 140 (4-6)
William Land 141 (4-6)
Phoebe (some students are already in the zoning area) 273 (4-6) (assume 50% live in neighborhood) 137

Total: 1,119 (3 grades)

Approximate 4 grades: $1,119 * 1.25 = 1,399$

Caleb
Judah
Lubin

Total: $599 * 1.25 = 749$

Phoebe (50%)
Tahoe

239

$599 + 239 = 838$

$838 * 1.25 = 1,048$

--
Kayte

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Elia Bassin
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	I am sorry I can't make it to tonight's meeting in person. Last week, on April 23, I really enjoyed the discussion the Board had. I appreciate and want to applaud all your comments and have a few things I think should be included going forward: The text limit is so short I can't even put in 30 seconds worth of comments. I will email later I guess...

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Jessica Gonzalez
School:	N/A
Agenda Item #	7.0
Comment:	Student Support Centers have been a part of the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) since 1992 when it was first introduced through the Healthy Start Initiative. Since then, the program has restructured and grown tremendously. The Student Support and Health Services Department has historically functioned through a Multi-tiered Systems of Supports-an evidence-based model that our school district is now working toward implementing district-wide. Ironically-Student Support and Health Services has now lost all Student Support Coordinators (which were eliminated during budget development) and we are now facing the very real threat of losing our department director due to the district's budget concerns. As such, there are very valid worries about who will help supervise and consult with school social workers or other staff. Our department currently leads and organizes our district's Mental Health Crisis Response Team (MHCRT); which provides crisis support to schools facing loss or trauma. Our Student Support Services Director is responsible for training and providing clinical consultation to counselors, nurses, psychologists and social workers when they are completing suicide risk assessments and helping students in crisis situations. The Student Support Services Director is the sole supervisor for 61 school social workers-the other supervising support staff (two Coordinator I, Mental Health-have been laid off). SSHS staff need a competent, well-versed and ethical individual to consult with and to provide supervision and continue supporting the MTSS model that our district strives to implement. Without appropriate staffing-our district is facing some very high-stake risks. I ask you to consider rescinding the layoff notice for the Student Support Services Director and consider exploring alternatives to address the budget concerns our district is facing. Our students and families deserve ethical and equitable support and it is important that we remain student-focused and community driven throughout this process. Respectfully,

	Jessica Gonzalez
--	------------------

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Faye Wilson
School:	N.A
Agenda Item #	10.1
Comment:	On behalf of the Black Parallel School Board (BPSB) and the Sacramento Area Black Caucus (SABC), thank you for the opportunity to share and submit our suggestions and recommendations for the next Superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD): Over the years, Black Parallel School Board (BPSB) and the Sacramento Area Black Caucus (SABC) have received countless complaints from staff, parents, students, and former staff and board members, many of whom are afraid to file a formal complaint for fear of retaliation regarding the systemic, structural racism and injustice living at SCUSD. Consequently, we are very concerned about the progress to date in closing the opportunity gap for Black students, especially the treatment of Black students with disabilities, homeless children, and the suspension of Black students. We will also submit our public comments via email.

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Lindsie Bear
School:	Hiram Johnson
Agenda Item #	10.5
Comment:	I am writing as a parent within the SCUSD to urge the Board to change the offensive, racist caricature that is currently the mascot at Hiram Johnson High School. The Warriors name and mascot depict an inaccurate representation of a plains Native man in his sacred regalia. This is analogous to having a cartoon of Black pastor or a stereotypical Jewish rabbi as a sports mascot, both of which are widely recognized as being offensive uses of sacred imagery. It is dehumanizing to not recognize Native people with the same basic respect and decency. SCUSD is not in relationship with Lakota, Arapaho, or other plains Tribes whose likeness you are appropriating. There are many symbols the district can choose to rally support for athletics that do not require the denigration of a people. It is hard to ask my daughter, now in 3rd grade, to respect the authority and educational guidance of a district that uses inappropriate imagery as marketing. We request the mascot be changed immediately.

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Sophia Wilson
School:	JFK
Agenda Item #	10.7
Comment:	My name is Sophia Wilson, I've been attending Jfk for two years. I have been playing music for 4 years. And music is one of the only things I have that makes me enjoy school. Music has given me another way to share my voice. The staff and students in the band have shown me nothing but love and support. Music is something I want to take a career from. I play 4 instruments, high-school band has taught me three new instruments in 2 years that I love. I believe taking this away from students will be taking apart of them.

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Jose Ortiz
School:	Hiram Johnson
Agenda Item #	10.7
Comment:	Impact of potential reductions to music programs, including culturally relevant courses and their role in student identity, engagement, and belonging.

Board of Education Meeting

April 30, 2026

Written Public Comments

Name:	Michele Hillen-Noufer
School:	N.A
Agenda Item #	10.7
Comment:	Good evening Superintendent McArn, President Jeane, and Trustees, On behalf of NorCal Arts, I would like to thank you for your continued commitment to providing transformational arts opportunities for SCUSD students. Through your support, NorCal Arts has been proud to serve SCUSD by providing theatre arts residencies and after school programs since 2020. With the addition of Prop 28 funding, NorCal Arts has been able to deepen its impact. These efforts have been thoughtfully coordinated in partnership with SCUSD's VAPA leadership, including Bryan Stroh and Daniel Roller, ensuring alignment, quality, and access across sites. As you know, the effective distribution and compliance of Prop 28 funds is essential. This work requires dedicated leadership and oversight. With the District's proposed layoffs and cuts, there is a real concern that the significant progress SCUSD has made in building and expanding arts programming over the past several years may be at risk, and students may lose access to these vital opportunities. The arts are not supplemental; they are essential. Research continues to show that arts engagement supports cognitive development by strengthening neural pathways, while also providing critical outlets for emotional expression, identity development, and peer connection. In theatre especially, students learn to collaborate, communicate, and process complex emotions in a supportive environment. We respectfully ask that you consider maintaining the VAPA Coordinator position and continue to support the team including Bryan Stroh and Daniel Roller. This will ensure that Proposition 28 funds are implemented effectively so students can continue to thrive through the arts programming this district has so intentionally built. Thank you for your time, leadership, and commitment to our students. Michele Hillen-Noufer, NorCal Arts Executive Director

