

Written Public Comment & Budget Hearing Testimony 6-14-22

Public Comment:

Putting SROs back in the schools.

Melissa Gimby

Parent / Padre de familia
Salem

SROs must be put back in the schools. Changing laws about access to guns and accessing mental health services are things that will take time. And we don't have time. We don't know when it will happen to our schools. Yes- some kids won't like it. But making decisions for the betterment of the students isn't going to be something they will all like. It's just like when a parent has to create boundaries and consequences. The safety of the students and staff is on your shoulders. Your responsibility. And when something happens and there aren't any SROs it will be on your shoulders. You will get to read the names of the victims, you will have to look the families in the eyes knowing you could have done something but didn't. You will have to spend the rest of your days knowing you prevented additional safety measures. OR you can choose safety over popularity. You can choose safety over political agendas. You can choose to do the right thing. So do the right thing and put SROs back in the schools.

Submitted: 6/13/2022 9:52:22

Public Comment:

4.a Spotlights on Success / Enfoque en el éxito

Angela Haragan

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Salem

Please! You must reinstate SRO's in all Salem Keizer public schools. Our children are NOT safe without the SRO's expertise & presence! Please don't let a tragedy like Uvalde, TX happen here in our town, because Superintendent Perry has mistakenly taken SRO's out of our schools, despite the public & our children's outcries. It was the WRONG decision then, but it can be remedied now. Don't let Salem Keizer School District go one more day without reinstating our SRO's, please! Our children deserve better than you have been treating them, they deserve to be protected.

Thank you!

Submitted: 6/12/2022 17:59:52

Public Comment:

SRO

Jeffrey Ellison

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Salem

Please hire armed security to protect our children . Do not wait for another school shooting or for mental health programs that take years. Protect our children now. Thank you

Submitted: 6/13/2022 14:54:10

Public Comment:

8.d Valley Inquiry Charter School Contract Amendment / Enmienda del contrato con la Escuela por Contrato Valley Inquiry

Vanessa Ellison

Parent / Padre de familia
Salem

Thank you for your attention and care towards enhancing charter schools in our area.

I would also like to touch on the urgent importance of restoring SROs in our schools.

YES mental health is important, but the fantasy that that alone will magically stop shootings is unrealistic. Absolutely a fantasy. And any improvement in the mental health of our students is realistically YEARS away. WE ARE NOT WAITING FOR A SHOOTING. We want protection now! Do not wait until it is too late while being stuck in an imaginary world where there is no crime and violence. Sadly, a school shooting WILL happen again. The question is if we are going to be prepared when that day comes around. Will we have the opportunity to stop it, or will we have failed the children for unrealistic thoughts?

The school districts paper pledges are not going to provide protection from a shooter. They already fail to protect kids from getting beaten on from other students. And fail to protect the teachers and students that are beaten unconscious. There is NO protection from a shooter! This is a fact when the schools can not even step in to stop an assault. It is not up to the teachers to put themselves in front of a bullet to protect our children. Wake up and realize the world we are living in before we are the next school on front page media.

Submitted: 6/13/2022 8:33:50

Public Comment:

SRO armed security

Cynthia Villalvazo

Parent / Padre de familia

Keizer

Protect the schools and provide armed security

Submitted: 6/13/2022 15:51:12

Public Comment:

8.a LGBTQ+ Pride Month Proclamation / Proclamación del Mes del Orgullo LGBTQ+, 8.b Revision to BG-11 to add Student Advisor /
Revisión de BG-11 para agregar la asesora estudiantil

Carlos jose garcia

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Salem

Submitted: 6/13/2022 15:17:05

Public Comment:

Reinstatement of SRO's

Jamie Vandecoevering

Parent / Padre de familia

Keizer

Dear Superintendent Perry,

As a parent AND an educator in this district, I am contacting you to call for the reinstatement of SRO's in all of our schools. It's a small step you can take to increase the safety of our students, which you say is your highest priority. If that's true, then SHOW US! WE DO NOT FEEL SAFE! Please listen!

Sincerely,

A concerned parent and teacher

Submitted: 6/13/2022 15:49:07

Public Comment:

School Resource Officers

Jenny Maguire

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Keizer

Superintendent Perry and Board Directors,

For the past two years district leadership in SKPS has focused on the physical safety of its staff and students as it mitigated Covid-19 in our community. This year the focus changed as you grappled with the devastating mental health and social/emotional consequences of your Covid Policies, making emotional wellbeing and safety the district's current focus. In spite of your initiative to create "safe and welcoming schools" we have experienced increased violence, bullying, disruption and disrespect across the district at all levels. Staff and students have been hospitalized on account of violence in our schools, but this is rarely acknowledged by the district.

This past year parents and staff have been advocating for increased safety measures at our schools. However, our voices have been drowned out by those of the LUS Youth who have been recruited to dominate public testimony and attention at the board meetings. Superintendent Perry, you accommodated their demands by canceling SRO contracts. Now they want security specialists and behavior specialists removed as well, per their demands at last month's board meeting. I hope by now you see that they will never be appeased and that removing first responders from our schools puts all students in danger, including our BIPOC community.

Chair Availa and Superintendent Perry, I ask you to stop elevating race issues over the issue of safety for ALL students. Chair Availa, we are fully aware of your and Levi Herrera-Lopez's allegiance to LUS Youth and the preferential treatment and platform they are given in this district. It is time to put away your personal political agenda for the safety of ALL 45,000+ SKPS students and staff and reinstate SROs to our schools.

Every second matters in a school shooting. EVERY SINGLE SECOND. Having SROs on sight can both deter and immediately respond to a threat. Are we going to be yet another district having to learn this lesson the hard way, or could we have that conversation NOW and get real about this significant threat to our children? If we give this issue even a fraction of the time we gave "safeguarding" ourselves against Covid, we might actually do something that prevents SKPS from being the next district known nationally for a school massacre. We know it's just a matter of time before it happens again with Oregon having the 5th highest rates of serious mental illness in the country. Thurston and Umpqua are proof in point.

Please reinstate SROs now. The time to consider this is not over the graves of our children or with regret that you could have done something more.

Sincerely,
Jenny Maguire
Former Behavior Specialist SKPS

Submitted: 6/12/2022 16:42:36

Public Comment:

SROs

Joelle Camillo

Parent / Padre de familia
Salem

Please take safety seriously and don't just pander. Bring back SROs. Trained good guys with guns are the only thing that stop bad guys with guns.

Submitted: 6/13/2022 14:29:11

Public Comment:

Armed security

Jimmy weatherly

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Salem

Please provide armed security at our schools. It is urgent, do not wait.

Submitted: 6/13/2022 15:11:08

Public Comment:

8.a LGBTQ+ Pride Month Proclamation / Proclamación del Mes del Orgullo LGBTQ+

Misty Bingham

Parent / Padre de familia
Salem

I am the mother of three students currently enrolled in Salem Keizer schools. My husband and I appreciate the work that you do. We are grateful for your support of music programs, quality facilities, and the good teachers that have inspired our children.

We have applied for admission at a private school for the next school year. We would prefer to keep our children in the community of schools that we have always loved, but the implementation of multiple district policies, and the lack of interest shown in considering views different from the politically popular progressive agenda, is driving us away.

Specifically, my husband and I are shocked by the blatant encouragement to exclude parents from student gender transition plans, outlined in the document labeled "The Confidential - Gender Support Plan." While we understand that many children live in unsafe and unsupportive households and will absolutely require referrals to lifesaving resources, encouraging the indiscriminate separation of children from parents is a signal of sinister intentions. If you don't have any, then please remove the signal.

We are strongly opposed to other policies in the document labeled "Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender Nonconforming Student INS-A040" and other related documents. While acceptance of all students is presented as the intention for these extreme measures, the reality is that all the children in the district are being and will be exposed to topics, content, images, discussion, and concepts that are inappropriate for their age and development. In many, many cases, this is a hostile attack on the values children are taught in their homes. Please consider, at the very least, delaying the implementation of the transgender policies until you have heard and valued the thoughts and feelings of parents and teachers in the district. I, for one, care deeply about ensuring that students are treated with love and acceptance, and I think we can work harder to find a way for that to be a reality for all students, not only those in certain specific situations, but truly all.

In the name of safety, especially in the wake of trauma children have experienced as a result of the pandemic, school closures, the prevalence of abhorrent racist crimes and horrifying violent events in other places, please also reevaluate district discipline policies. Consider ways to use restorative justice more appropriately and differentiate situations in which it leads to victim blaming and continually unchecked dangerous behavior. All children need to be held accountable for their actions in order to grow. All children need to see that when they are threatened or hurt, it is unacceptable to the authority figures they trust.

Finally, As mental health struggles and aggressive behavior steadily rise, we need all the help we can get to create a safe environment for all students and teachers. Please find effective ways to truly address tragic inequities and reinstate SRO's immediately.

Submitted: 6/10/2022 20:53:11

Public Comment:

4.a Spotlights on Success / Enfoque en el éxito, 7, 8.f 2022-23 Budget Hearing (ONLY), Resolution No. 202122-23 2022-23 Budget Adoption / Audiencia presupuestaria 2022-23 (ÚNICAMENTE), Resolución No. 202122-23, Aprobación del Presupuesto 2022-23, 8.a LGBTQ+ Pride Month Proclamation / Proclamación del Mes del Orgullo LGBTQ+, 8.b Revision to BG-11 to add Student Advisor / Revisión de BG-11 para agregar la asesora estudiantil, 8.c Student Advisor to the School Board / Estudiante asesora de la Junta Directiva Escolar, 8.d Valley Inquiry Charter School Contract Amendment / Enmienda del contrato con la Escuela por Contrato Valley Inquiry, 8.e Resolution No. 202122-22 Transportation Supplemental Plan / Resolución No. 202122-22: Plan Complementario de Transporte, 9.c Annual Fiscal Resolutions / Resoluciones fiscales anuales, 11.a June Graduation Report / Informe de las graduaciones de junio, 11.b Data Monitoring Report / Informe de seguimiento de datos: hasta enero de 2022

Jina

Student / Estudiante

Salem

I do not feel safe adding additional firearms in schools. As a student of color I have seen firearms used against my people. I have seen systematic oppression active to this day. Allowing firearms in schools is a danger to minorities. I have seen my people suffer inside the school district including myself. Adding firearms will not induce peace it will cause more violence especially against minorities. No KKKops in schools.

Submitted: 6/10/2022 20:11:42

Public Comment:

SRO's

Deb Ronano

Parent / Padre de familia
Salem

I am requesting that school resource officers be implemented back into the Salem Keizer school district. It is absolutely absurd that one person, Ms Perry feels that she has the right to dictate our children's safety. The school board and parents should have had an opinion as to whether they were removed. Our schools are out of control daily fights are escalating. Our teacher should be able to focus on teaching and not breaking up fights in the hall. We must learn from the recent shooting in Texas and protect our children. Children safety should be the number one priority not Ms. Perry's woke agenda. I would like to see them back in our schools for the 2022/2023 school year.

Submitted: 6/12/2022 20:11:51

Public Comment:

11.a June Graduation Report / Informe de las graduaciones de junio

Chelsea Harris

Parent / Padre de familia
Salem

I would like to congratulate all of the students who graduated this year. Between covid shutdowns and the escalating politicization at schools, it has not been easy for them. Hopefully, the lack of education they received can be made up in real life experience.

Violence inside schools has been steadily increasing, it's becoming more important than ever that we get armed police officers back in our buildings.

I commend our local police for their quick response last month at North but there needs to be better communication between school security and police. Having an officer on hand would help in this area.

This is all part of a bigger issue. There are no consequences, no responsibility from anything from tardies to violence. That means there is no safety. The students that I've spoken to at McKay want more security in their school and feel more comfortable when they are around. The open campus there has only led to more student fighting and a filthy, littered facility.

We all want our kids to be safe and it should be our number one priority.

Thank you for consideration,
Chelsea Harris

Submitted: 6/13/2022 10:02:50

Public Comment:

8.a LGBTQ+ Pride Month Proclamation / Proclamación del Mes del Orgullo LGBTQ+

Levi Herrera-Lopez

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

Good evening to all,

I'm writing in to express my support for the LGBTQ+ Pride Month Proclamation.

Our Salem-Keizer community historically has not been an affirming, inclusive or safe space for many of our LGBTQ+ peers, from social exclusion to the outright passage of anti-LGBTQ+ language in City charters. In that context, such proclamations are important, even if they are the bare minimum. As I've said to this body many times before, if our elected officials are unwilling to do the bare minimum, then we cannot trust them to do the harder work.

Salem-Keizer cannot be cities of peace if our schools are not affirming, inclusive and safe spaces to all students and staff, and in particular to LGBTQ+ students and staff.

Similarly, schools should not be prisons; students should not be policed and criminalized, whether by school staff or by police officers; and guns have no place in schools.

Lastly, I offer my support for the proposed 2022-2023 budget.

Thank you.

Submitted: 6/13/2022 11:00:07

Public Comment:

School Resource officers

Kathleen Johnson

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Salem

I am asking the Board of Education to reinstate School Resource officers in all of our Salem-Keizer schools. As we see more school shootings throughout the nation, it appears that most are the result of students who have problems that could have been taken care of before they decided that violence was their only option. School Resource officers get to know the students and can detect some of these problems before they come to a head. Students in the school who see or hear something that appears to be a threat are more likely to confide in a Student Resource officer that they are familiar with. I hope that this will also be combined with better discipline in our schools, so students will feel safe in the hallways, bathrooms and school grounds. There have to be consequences for bad behavior or it will only get worse.

Submitted: 6/12/2022 18:12:29

Public Comment:

Armed security

Melissa Ellison

Parent / Padre de familia
Keizer

I am asking you to provide armed security or SRO at our schools. Our children need protection in these times of violence.

Submitted: 6/13/2022 15:14:11

Public Comment:

9.c Annual Fiscal Resolutions / Resoluciones fiscales anuales

Jane E. Herb

Parent / Padre de familia
Keizer

Hello Superintendent Perry and School Board Members:

My twins will be starting at McNary this Fall, and I'm incredibly nervous about their safety. The recent school shooting in Texas, as well as the reports of escalating violence inside the schools, gives me pause about whether we should continue to have them in private school or homeschool them instead.

The removal of our SROs seems counter-intuitive on its face, and the violence that has occurred since losing them gives proof to the good and valuable service they provided to students and teachers alike. I respectfully request the new budget include the reinstatement of school resource officers for McNary and every school in our district. I'd also like to see budget items for improved safety, such as cameras, automatically locking doors, additional counselors, gun safety classes, and resources for encouraging more parents and community members to volunteer in every classroom.

Thank you for your focus on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Jane Herb
Keizer

Submitted: 6/11/2022 11:53:04

Public Comment:

8.a LGBTQ+ Pride Month Proclamation / Proclamación del Mes del Orgullo LGBTQ+

Ron Jacobsen

Parent / Padre de familia
Salem

Nice job on voting to go back to in-person meetings only to have the next one online. It's not like you don't have a MONTH to plan between meetings. What's the next excuse going to be "aww, gee, people might have a hard time opening the door. Welp, gotta go online again!" The chair is a coward, so unable to do the job that a second vice chair is needed. Feel free to move on, sir!

Bring back SROs!

Get rid of the insider corruption on the board. Levi Herrera-Lopez being on the budget committee AND running Latinos Unidos Siempre (student-led my armpit! Try Marxist activist-led) -- that doesn't look bad at all! Stop bending the knee to special interest activist groups. He can be a concerned citizen helping through public service, or he can run a non-profit fake front for a local antifa group (Yes, still talking about LUS) and be a loud nuisance that most sane people will ignore, but to be both and having the superintendent running cover for him should make anyone interested in appearing legitimate extremely uneasy, yet the superintendent and the board seem to love it!

Stop allowing teachers and administrators to sexualize children! Schools under your watch are allowed to show kids porn. If I showed my kids some of the books in school libraries, I could have my kids taken away, but because of an educational loophole in the law, my kid gets open access to cartoon depictions of gay fellatio and an education on sexual positions that some adults don't even know about. And if anyone expresses the slightest bit of hesitancy on that issue and wants parental permission to check them out, the board chair can just fraudulently claim in an open public meeting that they are trying to "ban books"? Chair Avila, you are a LIAR! Dishonesty is not an admirable leadership quality.

Get over this petty political grand-standing. You are on a school board, not a politician. If you want to be a politician, go run for city council, state legislature, or better yet, get out of Oregon and go run for some federal office.

We parents are sick of this! You are supposed to be TEACHING our kids, not indoctrinating them. Shame on you. Go start your own Marxist private school and let public school go back to being for the public. I'm appalled that my tax dollars go to help this blatantly partisan destructive operation.

Submitted: 6/13/2022 13:36:38

Public Comment:

8.a LGBTQ+ Pride Month Proclamation / Proclamación del Mes del Orgullo LGBTQ+

Anna Mu

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Salem

To Salem Keizer School Board:

I am a member of the community wanting to address the LGBTQ+ proclamation of the board for June 2022.

My statement is that it is all good and well to make this proclamation, but what will this proclamation do when the kids in our district are faced with a shooter in the school. Will it matter at that point what the child's pronoun or self described gender is? I personally tried to point this out to the board in the fall when last we were able to speak to the board in person. It appears that many have forgotten that Oregon has it's own history of shooters in the school. The unilateral decision to end the SRO program has been devastating to the schools. Danger of student to student violence has increased and is a common theme among parents and staff.

The mental health crisis in our schools we know is at an all time high, even though the district refuses to present any data or information about it. Speaking to students or their families makes this clear. I personally have heard of at least one student suicide just recently. Was there any mention of this either by the district or in the press? I think not. Is it that this is an all too common event now, that you don't feel it needs to be made known? Or perhaps my mind should go to a more sinister reason.. That the district is deliberately hiding the information. In the past, this type of news was the leading article. This allowed the many organizations concerned to come together and uphold all the student body to help and support, bringing the city closer together.

Now, not only is there no media coverage, there is not even an acknowledgement of the student/s existence.

Has your agenda to sidestep real learning and educating made you callous to the fact that you are responsible for real lives? Each child is unique and precious in the eyes of their parents, family, friends, and this whole community. The fact that the district views parents, families and the community as a danger and cannot even enter the schools to help teach and train our youth shows this. The families who have raised with these children throughout this pandemic when they were not in school, yet could not be present to help when they were needed most is not only sad, it shows a total disregard or respect for those who must live with the consequences of what you are creating. When the student is gone from the schools, the district will not take any responsibility or care for the person who has no life skills, poor mental health, and no real way to succeed because of their poor education when they were younger.

I point this out to say, congratulations, you have made the SKSD one of the worst in the state and in the nation. Hope you are proud.

A Concerned mother and grandmother.

Submitted: 6/13/2022 10:21:32

Public Comment:

8.a LGBTQ+ Pride Month Proclamation / Proclamación del Mes del Orgullo LGBTQ+, 11.b Data Monitoring Report / Informe de seguimiento de datos: hasta enero de 2022

Mike Slagle

Parent / Padre de familia
Salem

Board members. I am concerned for the children in our school district. My concerns are as follows. 1st the LGBTQ proclamation has wording in it to promote these ideas to my grandchildren in our schools. It states that it's OK to promote these things by displaying symbols that are pro LGBTQ. This goes against my family values, I'm not against people who identify as LGBTQ. I am against it being on full display and promoting it to my grandchildren. Please involve the community before you cause more gender dysphoria than you already have in our schoolchildren. You have not reached out to community members to discuss the transgender policy you secretly put in place, that completely disregards title IX for females. It is a disgusting experiment you are doing to our youth under the name of DEI, this is not by accident, it is on purpose 2nd I looked at the recent data about disciplinary actions going on in our schools. I am deeply concerned for my grandchildren, over 11,000 ISS/OSS from September until May! What are you doing to stop this behavior from happening? I am scared for my family. Is it gangs causing this? Is it that teachers and staff are overwhelmed? With the recent school shooting my alertness is on high and I would like to know that you are taking every possible measure to keep mine and other kids safe. I know your job must be hard but I don't think you want all of this violence and destructive behavior in our schools? I will hold you Ms Perry, the board, LUS, and Mano a Mano responsible if anything tragic happens because you canceled the SRO'S from school. There was no real data to back this decision up, you caved to the demands of an activist group. I'm thinking my grandchildren will leave school not with an education, but as a mixed up soul with no direction. Will you ensure they get a good education with value to enter life with confidence that they can get a job and support themselves? Remember half of our community voted for keeping SRO'S in schools, perhaps you should reach out to them when making proclamations and policies. The ones you have created over the last year have been very devious by nature and I am concerned for the well being of my family in SK schools. Please involve parents more on your policymaking. Thank you

Submitted: 6/13/2022 15:04:19