

November 18, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
Public Comment Items Appear in Order Received by Area.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

No public comments were received for this portion of the agenda.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

No public comments were received for this portion of the agenda.

UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Emma Amann

I am a parent of a 3rd grade GATE student at Yokomi, and a second grader at Yokomi who I was hoping to have tested this year so she could do GATE next year.

I have reached out to different people within the district, as well as the GATE office itself, multiple times over the last couple weeks and received no answer besides "Our public statement is that there are no current plans for gate testing."

Today I received a different answer from the district. Someone in the curriculum dept told me that the lack of direction and communication at the GATE office is due to the fact that GATE testing is a "board office decision." And since the Board hasn't greenlit anything for GATE, nothing has been put on the table and no plans have been made.

How does the District plan on filling the 3+ classrooms of 2nd grade at Manchester and the dedicated 2nd grade GATE classroom at Yokomi without doing any testing this year? How are parents supposed to plan ahead and apply for a transfer and for the school lotteries if there is no GATE testing? Are we just going to let an entire grade level miss out on life changing educational opportunities?

Why is COVID causing us to continue to let our children down this year? It seems like the kids are the last ones to be considered these days. Hopefully we can get an answer soon.

Emma Amann, FUSD Parent, 559-250-7779.

2. Nathaniel Stiers

I think the fact that a Fresno High School Alumni started a petition to KEEP the mascot is proof that it needs to go.

If you more closely associate an obviously racist mascot with high school football games, "tradition" and school pride, than you do with the actual human beings whose image and culture are being appropriated, then that is proof that Fresno High School failed you by their continued use of this imagery.

By continuing to use this image as your mascot, you are teaching another generation that it is ok to appropriate, profit from, and mock the culture of others. You are teaching insensitivity, apathy, and hatred to generation after generation after generation.

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If you really say you honor the people whose likeness you have appropriated then you will listen to them and discontinue the use of this image.

You are not losing your "history" by ending the use of this image, it will not be forgotten, instead, you are courageously and bravely setting the example that our future generations need.

By changing this image you are teaching our youth that when you make a mistake and you hurt someone, you admit your mistake, accept responsibility and make it right because that takes actual courage, respect, strength, and pride. -Nathaniel Stiers, 559 392-0349.

3. Jeremy Kramer – (Voicemail Transcribed)

Hello Board Members,

My name is Jonas and I am currently a student at Roosevelt High School. I would like to bring attention to the Fresno High mascot. I find that the mascot is extremely racist and should be replaced. The reason why I state this claim is we are generalizing what a Native American is, claiming that all them wear war paint and use hatchets. This just isn't true. There are so many different tribes of natives and each is unique in their own way. I would like to add that 32% of Native Americans are under the age of 18, 65% of Native youth are highly offended by Native mascots. In 1978, we passed the American Indian Religious Freedom Act which allowed Natives to, and I quote, "protects the rights of Native Americans to exercise their traditional religions by worship through ceremonies and traditional rites ensuring access to sites and use and possession of sacred objects and the freedom to worship their ceremonies. Might I add that Fresno High is built on Native American land. If we say that we are honoring the Natives by the mascot it is actually doing the opposite. I would also like to add that Fresno High does not have any kind of appreciation club or class for Natives. According to the APA, and I quote, "In 2005 the EPA called for the immediate retirement of all American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities used by schools, colleges universities **(250-word limit reached)**."

4. Erin Deis

Dear FUSD Board,

I am writing as an alumna of Fresno Unified schools, kindergarten through twelfth grade. I graduated from Fresno High in 1994.

My father taught and coached at FHS when I was a young child, and I attended numerous games, events, and the so-called "Tee Pee Talent Shows," dreaming of one day wearing the Purple and Gold myself.

As a student-athlete at Fresno High, nothing made me prouder than donning the name Warrior across my chest, and I loved when we saluted our athletic teams at the seasonal "Pow Wow Awards."

I was a member of the girls athletics club named the "Cheyennes" and my mother served on the parent group known as "Tribal Council."

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After I graduated, it was thrilling to watch my younger brother wear a purple FHS football helmet decked with golden tomahawks.

There is a framed painting of Royce Hall in the home where I grew up and where my parents still live.

As sports editor of the Owlet student newspaper, I even wrote an editorial in the early nineties, explaining why I thought it was ridiculous for teams and schools with mascots like the Warrior to have to change them.

I say all of that today, to let you know how much Fresno High meant to me. I loved being a Warrior.

However, after I exited Royce Hall, my own education and evolution continued, and now I know better. I learned what I wish I would have known 25 or honestly 44 years **(250-word limit reached)**.

5. Lana French

Good Morning Folks: Since sports teams travel to other communities and publicly display a chosen mascot it is appropriate to keep an open mind and consider all input whether the commenters are "locals" or not.

Depicting the "Warrior" image is perceived by Native Americans as disrespectful and sacrilegious. Raising opposition to the request to remove the image by deflecting reveals a hardened heart with an underlying agenda.

Suggest keeping "Warriors" as the team name and change the Native American "Warrior" image only. Everyone likes money how about \$\$ (cash)? ** (stars)? Star Warriors!

It is good to bring resolution and just maybe some joy into these times for each other.

Lana French

6. Christine Saviez

I graduated from FHS in 1990. Even as a 15 year old girl in 1987 I thought the mascot was racist and offensive. I brought it up to faculty but my voice was dismissed and silenced and I was forced to internalize that pain. I'm Mexican-America, and like most Mexicans, my roots are indigenous. The mascot's profile looks like my uncles.

The fact that FUSD has not changed the mascot is evidence of your White Supremacy. When I went away to college in 1990, my college roommates saw my FHS graduation cup with all the names of my classmates on it. On the front of the cup was the Native American warrior in full headdress. One of my roommates grabbed to cup, and with her mouth open in shock said, "Using Native Americans as mascots? That's hella racist. Objectifying Native Americans." I explained to her that I had no control over the mascot and she sat there shocked shaking her head. My other roommate shook her head at me and immediately left the room. Remember

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this was 30 years ago in 1990. The fact that FUSD uses Native Americanas as mascots is one of the reasons people think Fresno is a hick town run by a bunch of racist red-necks.

As far as the argument that the mascot "honore the courage of Native people", well then why don't we see Jewish people put as mascots? Jewish people are courageous, brave, honorable, and good. In fact many of the Resistance fighters **(250-word limit reached)**.

7. Sandra D. Wilson

The Native American culture and history has long been minimized in the classroom. Generations don't even know or understand the genocide that occurred right here in our nation. Natives are characterized through media for almost 100 years as the savage villains. These small images scattered throughout the US in schools, teams and businesses are sadly the only attention left. If these images serve as a reminder that Natives exist and may cause those to ask the question, who are they, and more importantly research and discover one of the most influential culture in history, it's worth the preservationtion of the images. I hope this campaign to eliminate images of the Native American from view is not an attempt to erase the beliefs, history, and culture. I thought knowledge and education were power. How can erasing the past obtain a place in our educational future.

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B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-16, HOLD a Public Hearing in the Matter of the Carter G. Woodson Public Schools' Renewal Petition

1. Elaine Bulgara

To whom it may concern:

I'm the parent of Timothy Carrisalez. As a parent I absolutely love what Carter G. Woodson Charter school is all about. I can tell they strive for the very best in helping to flourish my child's academics. They have been and continue to be great role models and encouraging our children to be their very best. I am very happy to say my son's grade and his enthusiasm for school has excelled at this school. They make it fun, so with a child's who may have trouble with their attention span finds it interesting and in return they learn. I was so very proud to hear my son ran for the student body. I can attest that this school has had a positive influence on my son who is normally more introverted. The school obviously has had a great impact on him and has made him feel inspired to want to be apart of the greatness at this school. I can't say enough the teachers, staff, and the principal Have been so very kind and supportive in every way. I ask that you please continue the accreditation of this school. Let them continue to serve our community by giving the best education to our children! I'm one of many parents that can attest to the positivity see in my son because of this great school

Sincerely, Elaine Bulgara.

2. Arthuro Olivares

To whom it may concern,

My name is Arthuro Olivares. I graduated in 2020 from Carter G Woodson Multimedia Public Charter School. I was one of the student founders when it first opened for my freshmen year. I came from Hoover and I had lots of trouble my first week there. A friend recommended me to Multimedia.

Throughout my whole four years of being at Multimedia, all they have done is help me and many other students. The teachers and staff have helped me and other students after school when we needed help. Even took time out of their prep periods and on weekends to help us. In bigger public schools, I really never had help like how they helped me and other students. The teachers there were the best teachers I ever had. They always helped with great advice with life and in school.

I joined their sports program and they really kept me out of trouble. I believe that you should keep this school open because they can help a lot of other students who have trouble with bigger public schools. I'm in college now because Multimedia helped me get there. I spent my best years here at Carter G, Woodson Multimedia. Sincerely, Arturo Olivares.

3. Veronica DeYoung

Dear Carter G. Woodson Teachers & Staff,

Thank you for helping my son get through this school year. I know it has been a difficult year due to COVID. Your dedication & continuous support to students & families is very much

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appreciated. My son Drion is looking forward to graduating from Carter G. Woodson in the future. Thanks Again! Best Wishes, Veronica DeYoung, 559-473-6787.

4. Rayvn White

My name is Rayvn White I Attended Carter G in the year of 2015. I really enjoyed the staff they are very hands-on when it comes to education and building a relationship with their students. Going to school, my peers and I felt like family as well as my peers. Since then, I've gone on to college and became a Medical Assistant. I still remained in contact with some of the staff there. I appreciate all of the staff there and i truly feel if it wasn't for the care and compassion, they showed me during a really trying time in my life, I wouldn't have graduated. The love and support the staff at Carter G has shown me is amazing and inspiring! I think it's very important for students to feel supported by staff and teachers. I'm so appreciative for the support and education I received at Carter G. I've never been to a school where I knew all of my teachers cared about my education and truly wanted me to succeed in life. There was always someone to talk to on campus. Teachers and staff there always made learning fun and involved themselves in school activities. Going above and beyond was never an issue at Carter G the staff & students worked together to make it a fun & safe learning environment and I truly appreciate them for that. The relationship I've built there will forever mean so much to me and have a lot to do with **(250-word limit reached)**.

5. Sandra Souza

My Name is Sandra Souza and I Went to Carter G Woodson Multimedia for my Sophomore year to my Senior year. I graduated from Carter G Woodson Multimedia school in 2019. I didn't want to be on Home Studies anymore so I found out about the school through a friend and I decided to enroll and go there for the last three years of my high school years. I attended Carter G and I learned so much from the teachers there. They always believed in me and they knew me very well. They always pushed me to keep going and to not give up. I always had good grades; I was the only person who got accepted to Fresno State college. They were so proud of me and I wouldn't have done it without them always being there and pushing me! I always learned new things while going there, especially on computers. I would learn how to design art on a computer and make music. I remember I would go and record all the games and edit videos. There's so much to learn there if you really want to learn I was always willing to try new things. Now that I've graduated, I've been attending Fresno city college for a year and I am taking a semester off and will be back in Spring! My goal is to finish another year of college and transfer to Fresno state. But, right now I'm currently working and trying to help myself grow **(250-word limit reached)**.

6. Traunell Moreau

My name is Traunell Moreau, I attended and graduated from Carter G Woodson Multimedia. I went to Carter G Woodson Multimedia my freshman, sophomore, and senior year. What I liked about Carter G Woodson Multimedia is that they have great teachers and they make the work easy just by the way they help you out. Another thing I like about Carter G Woodson Multimedia is that they want all their students to be successful. Also, they want to prepare you for the next chapter of life after high school. What I'm doing now after high school is working and planning

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on attending college in 2021. Thank you, Carter G Woodson Multimedia, for the great years I spent there.

7. Isaiah Martinez

My name is Isaiah Martinez. I am an alumni of Carter G. Woodson Multimedia, I attended my freshman to junior year there. I went to Carter G. because I was behind in school and wanted to catch back up. I also came to this school as a way to get my life back on track because felt as if I couldn't handle it being at the time. I remember having great experiences with my friends that I made there and also the teachers I had such as Mr. Lopez was my basketball coach and he was my biology teacher for a little before he became my P.E teacher, helped me realize that if I put in the work, I can achieve any goal I set for myself. Another teacher that made an impact on my years at Carter G. was Mr. Johnson was my art teacher and my computer teacher. He helped me by providing me with an important skill set that I am still using to this day and even more now because of the social distancing learning. The basketball team has helped me grow as a person because I saw this team as a family and we built bonds between us that skills stand to this day. It also helped me really take pride in my school work so I was able to stay on the team and the person I was becoming. Today I am currently attending Clovis Community College Working on becoming an athletic trainer. If **(250-word limit reached)**.

8. Steven Bosquez

To whom it may concern,

My name is Steven Bosquez, I am currently enrolled at Carter G. Woodson, and I have been for 3-4 weeks now. I really enjoy my new School. The teachers are good and do their job good. We meet two days a week and do all our work in class, which is nice and easy. Homework can be overwhelming. I can't wait to go back to school and meet all my teachers in person. I say, overall, Carter G. Woodson is a very good school and I hope I do better here than my last school. They keep us accountable here with a contract we have to sign every month, which is cool. Thanks for all you do for us kids. Steven Bosquez 9th grader.

9. Melanie Garcia

Carter G. Woodson Charter school has helped me for the past year or two that I have attended. Before I was accepted in Carter G. Woodson I was dropped from 3 previous schools because of my grades. Since I came to Carter G.

Woodson my grades have went up and I am finally on track to graduating. Before Covid-19 started I was very fond of their independent study classes. Their independent study classes have helped me to still be in a class setting while not being overwhelmed by being there every day. Online and regular high schools were not beneficial for my mental health. Regular high schools made my anxiety and depression unbearable to concentrate on school work. And online school wasn't the best option for me because, my depression was still getting the best of me since I was not getting any socialization. At Carter G. Woodson, I was able to get the best of both worlds. Carter G. Woodson provides a small class setting two days out of the week if the student enrolls into the independent study program. I am more than sure that there are students going through similar situations as me. I believe Carter G. Woodson can help those students that have been pushed aside due to their mental health not allowing them to do their best when it comes to their academics. The staff at this school puts their all into helping their students succeed when all odds are against that student. Sincerely, Melanie.

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10. Wendy Garcia

To whom it may concern

I am a Carter G. Woodson parent writing this letter of appreciation to show how much Carter G. Woodson means to me. When my son first started middle school, he was doing really good until he started getting bullied by someone he just met. It got to a point where my son started getting depressed and did not want to go to school anymore. My cousin had told me she had the same problem with her son. She told me she took her son to Carter G. Woodson and they both really liked it, so I decided to give the school a try. I have seen my son on his Zoom classes and seen how nice, helpful, and patient all the teachers are with all their students. My son is doing very well in all of his classes. We both like Carter G. 'Woodson and are so happy that Carter G. Woodson was there.

11. Cherie Rodriguez

Just want to thank you Carter G Woodson teachers and staff. Me as a parent, I feel you guys are doing a great job during this time in transitioning due to the corona virus working with the students and us parents as well. Reaching out to us letting us know our kids updates and etc. and taking the time for the kids most of all to make sure they are in the right direction with their online education. Thank you Very Much.

12. Johnny and Priscilla Bosquez

My name is Johnny and Priscilla Bosquez, parents of Selah Lucio and Steven Bosquez. My children have been at Carter G. Woodson for now 3 weeks. My experience with Carter G has been a delight. Since the first day I called, the Registrar Anna was on it, very sweet, respectful young woman. Very helpful and had my kids transferred in a couple of days. She knows her job and does it well. The Counselor Karen was very responsive as well and emailed us the next day after registering my kids. She emailed us, there teachers, there emails and informed us if we needed anything to let her know and she would help us. We emailed the teachers and most of them emailed me back that they will keep us in the loop about our kid's interactions and involvement in class. Speaking to our children, they like their new school and hope to get better grades than the last school. They cannot wait to go back and look forward to meeting their teachers in person. We have a great experience at Carter G. Woodson so far.

Keep up the great work Carter G. Woodson! Thank you for your time.

Johnny, Priscilla Bosquez, mother of Selah Lucio and Steven Bosquez.

13. La Toya Rowe

My name is La Toya Rowe parent, of Emerald J. Mejia. Emerald has been attending Carter G. Woodson since her Freshmen year and we honestly love the environment and the smaller class atmosphere. Emerald is much more relaxed and comfortable when navigating through the school versus a larger school campus and the larger school crowds. The teachers are engaged as well as the counselors, principal and all the way down to the receptionist. As a single parent it gives me comfort in knowing that my daughter is surrounded by people who not only care about her grades but, about her growth, career goals, her safety in how she gets home and in her involvement in school roles. We are proud of the positive influence that Carter G. Woodson

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has on our family and we hope many more families can receive this type of positive experience when they walk through the doors of Carter G. Woodson.

14. Lois Mello

My name is Lois Mello. I am writing this letter to show my support for renewing Carter G. Woodson's charter program. I graduated valedictorian from this school. This school changed my life. I can honestly say if I went to another school, I probably wouldn't have graduated. The programs, support and help they provide their students with is one of a kind. I was lucky enough to be a student their first Medical Program class right before I graduated. I only took the medical terminology class, but I learned medical terms, how to take blood pressure manually and how to draw blood. I was also a part of the leadership program where I was class President my senior year, volunteered in the school office and in the yearly Toys for Tots give outs. This school made sure I graduated and even when I wanted to give up on myself, they showed me the potential I had. They were patient, kind and understanding. Please renew their charter so that they can continue to uplift and influence their students' lives in ways that regular schools could never. Sincerely, Lois Mello, Former Carter G. Woodson Student.

15. Stephen and Shannon Cahill

To whom it may concern,

I would like to thank Carter G Woodson for all the amazing work they have done with our son Mason Nixon. He had completely failed his freshman and sophomore years at Hoover High School. We decided to place him at Carter G because our daughter had been there since her 7th grade year. Our son immediately showed much progress. He was even awarded student of the month multiple times. He graduated in 2020, and is now attending Agape college. Thanks to all the one-on-one attention he received along with the encouragement and understanding. Our daughter Madison Cahill is currently in her junior year. She is bringing home A's and B's. Carter G is an amazing school with the one-on-one attention and encouragement she also received.

Our children are thriving, and without Carter G, I really don't think either one would have gotten this far.

Sincerely,

Stephen and Shannon Cahill

16. Aliah Aguilar

Yes, I'm willing to let you know how I feel about Carter G Woodson. For me personally it's hard to get things done, right away now that I have a son that I'm raising, this school helps me have a flexible schedule to get things done, also I'm able to go to school on the days I'm scheduled and get my homework done. I also like that this school helps me with my credits because to be honest with you; before I wasn't taking school seriously but now, I realize it's what's going to help me in the long run, and I'm happy that I'm focused on school and getting the credits that I need.

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17. Ileana Pineda

As a former student of Carter G. Woodson, I am truly honored to have been asked to write this letter. My name is Ileana Pineda, class of 2014 graduate.

My journey began at Woodson sometime during 2011. My parents moved from the neighborhood I grew up in and I was forced to leave my high school as well as all my friends. Being the new kid isn't always easy, especially in high school, I was starting sophomore year forced into a whole new high school across town. Unfortunately, my transfer was denied so for a couple months I bounced around from a couple home studies style education schools which I was not into. I'm more of a hands-on learner and I wasn't happy with doing packets and being in school once a week. I like to be involved. So, one day by luck, I ran into an old friend whom happened to go Carter G. Woodson at the time. She filled me in about the school and suggested I check it out. I begged my mom to sign me up and sure enough, she gave in, we went in and proceeded to enroll.

As small as the school itself and population may seem, I was fortunate enough to have been part of such big greatness. During my time there, I learned so much. I gained a lot of knowledge through not just education but wisdom. Wisdom from all my fellow peers as well as the teachers, and of **(250-word limit reached)**.

18. Anthony Johnson

I am a former student graduated in 2015 from Carter G Woodson Public Charter School, I'm writing this letter to give an update on how life is today after graduation and also my experience while attending Carter G Woodson. I started Carter G back in 2012 as a freshman, I have nothing but wonderful memories and wonderful relationships still to this day with the staff and students at Carter G. Woodson. While I attended school there, staff always made the effort to ensure students we performing their best, staff encouraged us to never give up as well as took the time to make sure we understood our assignments even stayed after school and worked closely with us. The Carter G Woodson staff always ensured and made sure the school campus was clean and safe for the students there. I graduated Carter G Woodson in 2015. I went on to attend Milan Institute school of Fresno where I became an aesthetician, I now own my own business in Fresno, California doing what I love I don't think I would be where I am if my teachers at Carter G didn't instill in me never to give up on my dreams, and that every and anything is possible, and picking me up when I felt like giving up Carter G will always be Home to us former students.

-Anthony Johnson
2015 Graduate

19. Melissa Ou

Hi to anyone reading this, I wanted to talk about why Carter G Woodson saved my life. In many ways the school has changed me for the better especially the staff, when I first went to Carter G Woodson I had little to no people skills and just never wanted to be around anyone. The amazing things that the teachers and students showed me in two and a half years molded my life, if you feel your life is hard and you don't have anyone to talk to, you're worth more than that in the eyes of the faculty, they care and they actually do want to see everyone thrive in life. It's also made my life easier because I was working, going to school, and babysitting all

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while getting ahead of my classes and schoolwork. Always remember to give what you expect; respect goes a long way, it's not just a school for me, it was my second home and for some people it's definitely appreciated. In my experience the years went by fast and it did have its hiccups but don't let any of the discourage you guys. I will never forget the impression every soul that has stepped into my life there has left.

20. Syphounh Roberts

Carter G Woodson was an amazing school for me. I looked into going to the school because I heard that it was a great place to start over. Once I started there, I loved it. The staff were great mentors and looked over me like I was their kid. They made sure I had the help I needed. If I had a problem, they took the time to sit with me and figure it out. Since graduating, I've married another former student from the school. Now we currently live in Alaska as he serves in the Army. Overall, I really thank the school and all the staff members for helping me finish school. They pushed me to work as hard as I could and I wouldn't have graduated if it wasn't for them. I've recommended the school to lots of my younger family members, as I would for any other kids looking for a great school.

- Sincerely,
Syphounh Roberts

21. Jabaree Means

MY name is Jabaree means and I go to Carter G Multimedia,
one reason I like Carter G multimedia because its not
a lot of people so I get more help from teacher
and staff.

Jabaree means
11-12-20

22. Madison Cahill

My name is Madison, I go to Carter G.
Woodson Multimedia. What I like about
Carter G. is that it is a small campus,
with not too many students, but very
few. I like that my teachers can
work 1 on 1 with me and help
me, they're very helpful.

- Madison Cahill

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23. Lizeth Casillas

I enrolled at Carter G. Woodson Public Charter High School, because I was struggling with regular high school. I was very unhappy that my grades started to slip. My sister who graduated with the class of 2016 at Carter G. suggested I should enroll there. She spoke highly of the school that she convinced my mother to let me drop out of Sunnyside and enroll at Carter G Woodson. I started in my second semester of my freshman year; I was very behind that I was assigned to afterschool tutoring for extra credit to catch up. I can honestly say, it was the best decision I made regarding my education and mental health.

I could immediately feel the shift in atmosphere just in the first month I was there. I appreciated that the staff and teachers were really kind and welcoming, their smiles weren't forced and actually made you feel like you belonged. It made me look forward to going to actually going to school to learn every Tuesday and Thursday. I liked the everything about the school. The campus, the classes, the teachers and staff, even the students. I liked that the campus was small because it was easy to learn and navigate through. I liked that the classes were compact because I had more one on one with my teachers and I was able to learn more than I was able to before. I liked that all the students kept to themselves and did not cause me any **(250-word limit reached)**.

B-17, PRESENT and DISCUSS the Special Education Update

No public comments were received for Agenda Item B-17.