

Monica Roque

From: Owen Yancher [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 11:47 AM
To: DJUSD Board of Education
Cc: Jeff Lorenson
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT, NOV. 19 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Categories: Blue category

Hello,
This public comment is for the November 19th, 2020 DJUSD School Board meeting, Agenda Item:
VII.c. Bond Program Update and DSHS STEM and Aquatics Center Schematic Design Approval

Trustees,

My name is Owen Yancher. I coach swimming at Davis High School.

Thank you for your continued efforts over the past year, serving the students and staff of DJUSD during the pandemic.

Eight months ago, I was one of only two public comment speakers that attended the March 19th school board meeting.

I commented on the Measure M Bond Program financing, which trustees later that night resolved to sell in a larger than originally planned increment -- a move that has since saved local taxpayers millions of dollars and should be commended.

Had I known what I know now, I would have also urged the board to move forward on Measure M-related construction projects, as the prime time to complete these would have been now, with nearly no individuals on campuses. Unfortunately, I did not have a crystal ball.

However, I find it troublesome in today's report by staff (relating to Measure M projects) that staff have recommended the signature DHS Aquatic Center project be delayed. With the fiscal uncertainty and unsteady economic climate we are facing in upcoming years, it seems highly counterproductive to delay this project, with rising costs likely on the horizon. I hope the board recognizes this and chooses to move forward with all signature projects on original timelines in a deliberate effort to utilize taxpayer money efficiently.

In the two years alone since Measure M was approved by Davis voters (Nov. 2018, with heavy support from the aquatics community), construction costs for the handful of MPR projects across DJUSD at elementary sites have already increased by several million dollars. That considered, a "six to 12 month postponement" of the Aquatic Center -- a delay that could allow for burgeoning costs -- seems disadvantageous for DJUSD and the district's goal of taking steps to maintain fiscal stability in the coming years. Savings from Measure M projects costs can (and will) help offset costs of other facility needs across DJUSD.

I encourage the board to submit the STEM *and* Aquatic Center Schematic Designs for approval *tonight* along with all other Measure M signature projects on the agenda.

Again, thank you for your continued efforts and support.

I especially want to thank outgoing trustees Fernandez and Poppenga for serving the Davis community over the last four years.

Thank you!

-Owen Yancher

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Owen Yancher

